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In Pictures

The global game caught on camera

PORTUGAL...Basle's Benjamin Huggel takes one in the eye from Benfica's Nemanja Matic during their Champions League game at the Estadio da Luz in Lisbon

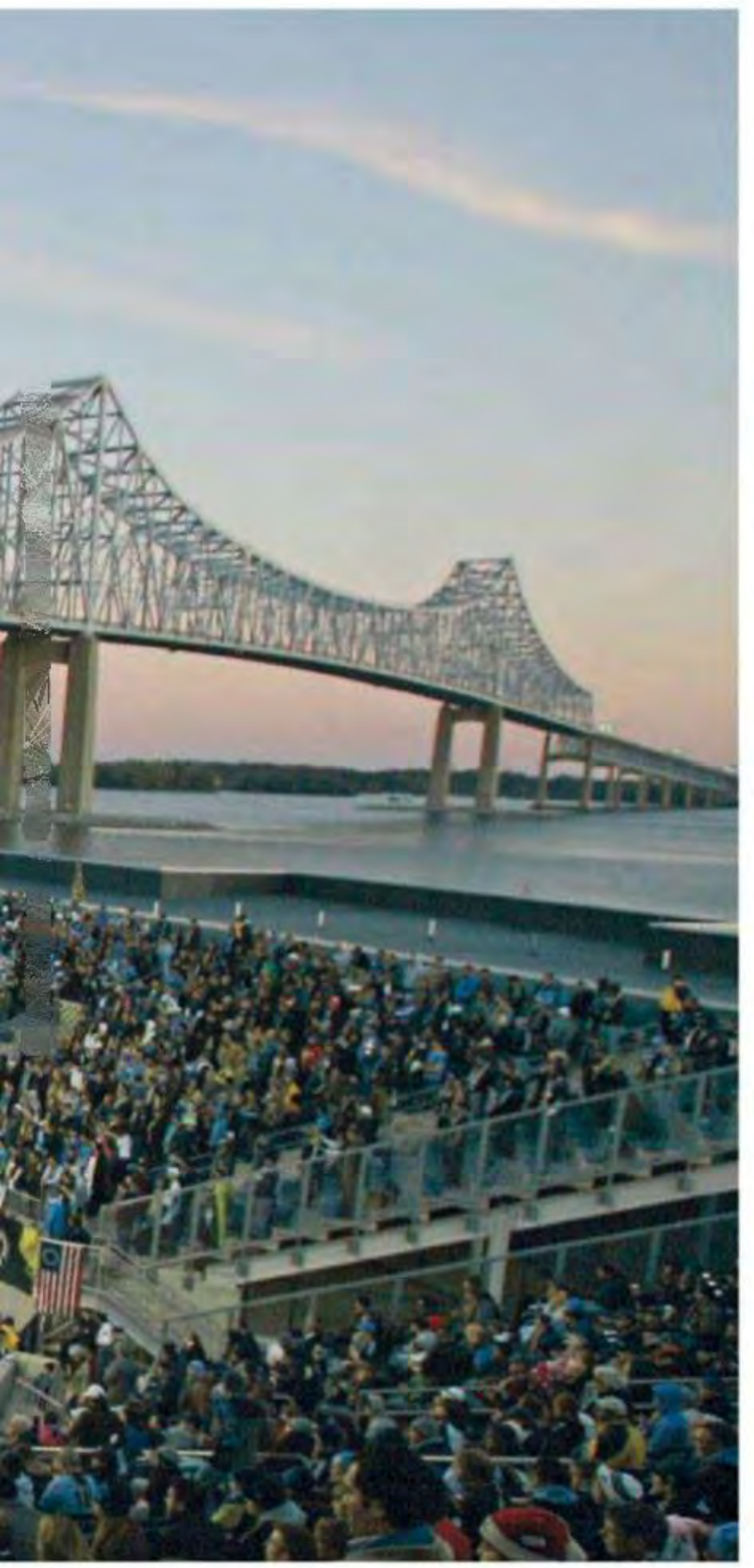
PALESTINE...women from Palestine (in green) and Japan play a friendly in the West Bank city of Nablus

UKRAINE...laser beams light up the sky during the opening ceremony at the Arena Lviv

USA...the Commodore Barry Bridge, which crosses the Delaware River, provides the backdrop for the MLS play-off between Philadelphia Union and Houston Dynamo at PPL Park in Chester, Pennsylvania

SPAIN...Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho distances himself from the rest of his squad prior to the La Liga game away to Malaga

ARGENTINA...Arsenal keeper Cristian Campestrini and Vladimir Marin of Paraguay's Olimpia scramble for the ball in the Sudamericana Cup



SOUTH KOREA...a Suwon Bluewings sub attacks Al Sadd's Mohammed Kasola at the end of the AFC Champions League semi-final first leg

FROM THE EDITOR

The Club World Cup does not receive much attention in the UK, even on the rare occasions when English teams are involved. Yet it remains the only opportunity we get to compare European and South American club sides in a competitive environment.

There is added spice this year with the involvement of Santos and their highly regarded starlet Neymar – a player coveted by many European teams, not least Barcelona, Europe's representatives in the Club World Cup.

The changing nature of global economics means that Santos have been able to tie Neymar to a lucrative new contract which they hope will keep him at the club until the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Comparisons with Barca's Lionel Messi, who left Argentina at the age of 13 to move to Spain, are inevitable.

> Ahead of the Club World Cup, comparisons between Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Neymar of Santos are inevitable

I suspect we will be seeing a lot of Messi in the coming weeks: in our next issue, as well as reviewing the Euro 2012 draw and the league seasons in Brazil and the USA, we announce the results of our annual awards, including our 2011 World Player award.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH

1. FIFA president Sepp Blatter announced his "road map" of planned reforms ..... page 72
2. LA Galaxy reach the MLS Cup Final ..... page 32
3. The match day schedule for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil was unveiled ..... page 28
4. APOEL Nicosia of Cyprus were the surprise team of the Champions League group stage ..... page 95
5. Qatar's Al Sadd won the 2011 Asian Champions League ..... page 90
6. Neymar extended his contract with Santos ahead of the Club World Cup in Japan ..... page 85
7. Cristiano Ronaldo was presented with the 2011 ESM Golden Shoe ..... page 12
8. England captain John Terry became embroiled in row over alleged racist comments aimed at QPR's Anton Ferdinand ..... page 18
9. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Molde won the Norwegian league title ..... page 10
10. Hungary mourned Florian Albert, 1967 European Footballer of the Year, who died aged 70 ..... page 11

ITALY

Milan fears for Cassano and Gattuso

Struggling... Cassano (above) and Gattuso

Milan face the prospect of being without forward Antonio Cassano and midfielder Gennaro Gattuso for the rest of the season after Cassano was diagnosed with a heart defect and Gattuso suffered a serious eye injury.

Cassano, who appeared to have matured finally after a turbulent career, was taken ill during his team's flight home after a dramatic 3-2 Serie A victory away to Roma. He underwent a series of tests at the Policlinico neurological hospital as Milan denied early reports that he had suffered a stroke. It was later reported that he had a cardiac problem requiring corrective surgery.

Meanwhile, Gattuso is battling a nerve problem affecting his left eye and has not played since colliding with team-mate Alessandro Nesta in the opening game of the Serie A season.

Specialists have advised the 33-year-old to wait for up to six months before deciding whether to undergo surgery. Gattuso said that he can't drive his children to school and that he sees double when he takes off a thick pair of glasses.

"Right now the most important thing for me is getting back to being a normal person in everyday life," he says ."It's going to take more than this to knock me down."

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"It's absurd. Don't they know what significance this ground has to us Brazilians?"

Mario Zagallo hits out at the schedule for Brazil the 2014 World Cup, which will only feature one game – at the most – for the hosts at the iconic Maracana stadium: potentially the Final

Farewell...Keller applauds the Seattle fans

UNITED STATES

Keller bows out

Former USA goalkeeper Kasey Keller, who won 102 caps, retired after Seattle Sounders' 3-2 defeat on aggregate to Real Salt Lake in the MLS Cup play-offs.

A record crowd of 64,410 turned out to see Keller play his last home game of the regular MLS season for Seattle, a 2-1 victory over San Jose Earthquakes.

Keller, who turns 42 on November 29, had been at Seattle since 2009 after a career in Europe with Millwall, Leicester City, Rayo Vallecano, Tottenham Hotspur, Borussia Monchengladbach and Fulham.

NIGERIA

National team turn to Keshi

Nigeria have appointed former skipper Stephen Keshi as coach in a bid to reverse the fortunes of the national side.

The 49-year-old, who captained Nigeria at the 1994 African Nations Cup – the last time they won it – and the World Cup finals that year, has replaced Samson Siasia, who was sacked after the side failed to qualify for next year's African Nations Cup finals.

Keshi steered Togo to the 2006 World Cup finals but was controversially fired a few months before the tournament when the Togolese federation decided to appoint Otto Pfister.

Big challenge... Keshi

HEROES & VILLAINS

RYUJIRO UEDA

A month after Norway's Jone Samuelsen set a new world record with a headed goal from 62 yards, the defender with Japanese second-tier side Fagiano Okayama bettered the feat by a further two yards against Yokohama.

BESART BERISHA

Brisbane Roar's Albania striker grabbed the A-League's fastest-ever hat-trick, scoring thee times in six minutes in a 7-1 victory over Adelaide United.

Quick-fire...Berisha

CIARAN KELLY

The Sligo Rovers goalkeeper, who saved four penalties in last year's FAI Cup Final shoot-out against Shamrock Rovers, was the hero once again in this year's Final, appearing as a sub in the 119th minute and saving two penalties as Sligo beat Shelbourne 4-1 in the shoot-out.

CLAUDIO PIZARRO

Werder Bremen's Peruvian, the most prolific goalscoring import in German history, reached 150 Bundesliga goals.

Goals galore ...Pizarro

KEVIN-PRINCE BOATENG

Having switched nationalities so he could play for Ghana at last year's World Cup, Milan's Germany-born midfielder has now retired from international football...at the age of 24.

Bye, bye Ghana ...Boateng

PORTO

Equalled the Champions League record set by Roma in 2007 when eight of their players were shown yellow cards in the 1-1 home draw with APOEL Nicosia.

JAN TOMASZEWSKI

The Poland goalkeeper who made a string of saves to deny England a place at the 1974 World Cup was accused of being a communist spy for his country's security service. The 63-year-old, who is now an MP, denied the reports.

Spying claims... Tomaszewski

HOLGER BADSTUBER

Deflected a cross from Napoli's Christian Maggio past Bayern Munich team-mate Manuel Neuer to end the goalkeeper's run of clean sheets – a total of 1,147 minutes that stretched back to the season's opening defeat by Borussia Monchengladbach.

"With the wages of one Real or Barcelona player, you could buy all of us"

Levante striker Juanlu proudly takes stock of his side's fairy-tale start to the season

NORWAY

Solskjaer strikes gold at Molde

When the board at Molde began planning for the club's centenary their ambitions were sky high. Top priority was to bring home former player Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who was with the club for two season before joining Manchester United in 1996, and wishful thinking became reality when he moved to Kristiansund with his family in January 2011 after signing a four-year contract to take over as coach.

Solskjaer scored 126 goals in 366 matches as a player for United before retiring because of injury in August 2007. His sympathetic personality won him many admirers during his time at Old Trafford – his eye for goal and youthful looks saw him dubbed the "baby-faced assassin" – and his iconic status among United fans was sealed forever by his last-minute winner in the 1999 Champions League Final against Bayern Munich.

His experience as a player at international level, where he scored 23 goals in 67 games for Norway, as well as his apprenticeship as United's reserve-team manager, gave Solskjaer a sound foundation on which to build a career in management as he took his first steps with Molde. He inherited a healthy squad at a club who, although runners-up in 2009, had never won the league title.

Solskjaer handpicked the personnel for the club's physio department and built his own coaching staff, bringing in Mark Dempsey, a former player and youth team coach at United, from Tromso and appointing Richard Hartis as goalkeeping coach. He quickly proved that he was his own man, with strong self-belief and a clear sense of direction, but the importance of building a team around himself was certainly something he learned in England. The hallmarks of Alex Ferguson's management style – scrutinising international football, building a strong medical staff and using the expertise of his coaching staff – are all factors that Solskjaer has tried to emulate, albeit on a smaller scale.

After a 3-0 defeat at Sarpsborg in the opening game of the season there were some doubts about Molde's title-winning potential, but as the campaign progressed so the team began to gel. A serious pre-season injury to Borre Steenslid was overcome as Kristoffer Vatshaug took his place alongside Vegard Forren in the centre of defence to form a solid partnership in front of reliable goalkeeper Espen Bugge Pettersen.

Champion first season...Solskjaer congratulates Molde's Senegalese midfielder Makhtar Thioune after a draw at Stromsgodset clinched the title

Solskjaer returned to Manchester United to bring home midfielder Magnus Wolff Eikrem and the 21-year-old blossomed alongside veteran midfielders Magne Hoseth and Daniel Berg Hestad. Senegalese striker Pape Diouf scored 12 goals before being sold to Copenhagen, while Davy Angan weighed in with eight.

A strong squad allowed Solskjaer to rotate players and blood youngsters, and while Molde's football was not always beautiful their solid defence, allied to pace down the flank, proved hugely successful. After favourites Rosenborg and Valerenga had struggled early in the season, Tromso provided the toughest opposition but Molde's 2-2 draw at Stromsgodset secured the title by the end of October with two games to go.

With the financial backing of Bjorn Rune Gjelsten and Kjell Inge Rokke, who have been Molde's benefactors for many years, Solskjaer believes he can develop the club still further. More investment in players will be made before next season, when the aim will be success in Europe.

United manager Ferguson has congratulated his former "student" on winning the title but has advised him "not to rush his managerial career".

Continue developing yourself with Molde was the message – and their fans could not be more pleased with Sir Alex's words.

Sigurd Odegaard

"I yelled to him: 'You have no balls!' And probably worse things than that. And I added: 'You are shitting yourself about Mourinho! You can go to hell'"

Zlatan Ibrahimovic uses his autobiography to settle scores with Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola

GOALS we'd like to see again

To see clips of these goals, visit **www.worldsoccer.com**

1 ANDRES INIESTA
Barcelona v Viktoria Plzen
Plays two one-twos with Lionel Messi before flicking the ball past his marker and then half-volleying into the bottom corner.

2 KEVIN PRINCE-BOATENG
Milan v BATE Borisov
Neatly controls a cross-field pass before firing home off the underside of the crossbar from just outside the penalty area.

3 CRISTIANO RONALDO
Real Madrid v Malaga
A spectacular finish with the sole of his boot from inside the six-yard area.

4 DENIZ BARIS
Antalyaspor v Trabzonspor
Runs with the ball from inside his own half before rounding the goalkeeper and slotting home.

5 ROMAN BEZUS
Vorskla Poltava v Metalist Kharkiv
Finishes a fine attacking move with a powerful bicycle kick.

6 ANDREW JOHNSON
Fulham v Wisla Krakow
Superb technique to volley home from the edge of the penalty area.

OBITUARY

Florian ALBERT (1941-2011)

Hungarian football is in mourning for the former European Footballer of the Year who died in Budapest, aged 70, from complications after heart surgery.

Albert played all his senior career as a graceful, skilful centre-forward with Ferencvaros, scoring 256 goals in 351 league matches in a 16-year career, before being forced to retire prematurely by injury in 1974. He won four league titles, one Hungarian Cup and the 1965 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, in which "Fradi" beat Juventus in a single-leg Final in the Italians' Stadio Olimpico in Turin.

In 1967 Albert became the only Hungarian to be voted European player of the year, and today's Ferencvaros stadium bears his name.

With 31 goals in 75 internationals, he was the key figure as Hungary rebuilt following the defections of the Puskas-era players in the wake of the Revolution in 1956. He was joint-top scorer with four goals at the 1962 World Cup, when Hungary reached the quarter-finals in Chile, and inspired a third-place finish in the 1964 European Championship (then known as the European Nations Cup).

One of his greatest performances, however, was in the 1966 World Cup in England when Hungary inflicted Brazil's first defeat in the finals in 12 years. The match, played at Goodison Park, was widely considered as the finest of the tournament. Hungary won 3-1 with goals from Ferenc Bene, Janos Farkas and Kalman Meszoly, but it was Albert who pulled all the strings.

Keir Radnedge

WINNERS

JULIO GRONDONA
The controversial 80-year-old won a record ninth four-year term in office as president of Argentina's Football Association.

XAVI
The Barcelona midfielder scored the only goal, against Granada, in his record-breaking 392nd La Liga game for the club.

MOLDE
A debut success for new coach Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as they won the Norwegian title for the first time in their 100-year history.

MANCHESTER UNITED
Their 6-1 loss to neighbours Manchester City was the club's heaviest home defeat since 1927.

FEYENOORD
Knocked out of the Dutch Cup by second division Go Ahead Eagles, Ronald Koeman's side then conceded six goals without reply at Groningen in the league.

MONACO
Just seven years after reaching the Champions League Final they are bottom of Ligue 2 in France.

LOSERS

"It hurts when you are told you are superfluous. It still does"

Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque admits he has yet to get over his sacking at Real Madrid in 2003

SPAIN

The Shoe must go on: Ronaldo carries on scoring

Cristiano Ronaldo collected the ESM Golden Shoe on a Friday in Madrid, surrounded by some of the greats of the game. Eusebio was there with him, so too Alfredo Di Stefano and Zinedine Zidane. On the Saturday he handed each of his team-mates a glass replica to thank them for their contribution. And on the Sunday he presented the ESM Golden Shoe to the fans at the Santiago Bernabeu before Real Madrid's game with Osasuna. Then he got on with doing what he does best: scoring goals.

Earlier that week he had scored his 100th goal for Real Madrid, against Lyon, and by the end of the 7-1 rout of Osasuna he had taken his tally to 103 with yet another hat-trick. With 13 goals in a league season which is only 10 games old, the 40 that won him the ESM Golden Shoe last season might even be surpassed this term. Either way, he is surely already favourite to win it again next year.

He is now only a solitary strike behind that other Ronaldo – the original Ronaldo, the Brazilian Ronaldo – who managed 104 in his five seasons with Real. While the original Ronaldo took 168 games to reach 104, Cristiano Ronaldo has managed his 103 in just 106 matches.

Although he has been in Spain for only two-and-a-half seasons, talk of the 26-year-old becoming a historic player for the club is not empty hyperbole. He must cement his legacy with the Champions League, the trophy that defines the club, but the rate at which he is scoring goals beggars belief. There is something almost ludicrous about it, and the only man who is able to keep up with his pace is Lionel Messi.

In the week in which Ronaldo got his 100th Real Madrid goal, Messi scored his 200th for Barca, and over the last two years the pair have been running at fractionally under a goal a game (0.97 and 0.96 goals per appearance respectively in all competitions).

Unstoppable... Ronaldo on his way to a hat-trick against Osasuna and, below, receiving his ESM Golden Shoe from Di Stefano (left) and Eusebio

Ronaldo has scored 79 goals in just 74 league games, seven in eight in the Spanish Cup (including the winner in last year's Final), one in two in the Super Cup and 16 in 22 in the Champions League. It has taken him just 8,755 minutes – which is better than a goal every 90 minutes. His record last season was better than that of Di Stefano, better than Ferenc Puskas, better than Santillana, better than Ronaldo.

Ronaldo's ESM Golden Shoe came thanks to 40 goals in Spain – and that's more than anyone else, ever.

Sid Lowe

See page 68 for an exclusive interview with Cristiano Ronaldo

"Millionaires in life. Tramps on the pitch"

Marseille supporters unveil a banner at the Stade Velodrome to show how they feel about the side's poor form

■ OBITUARIES

Jimmy ADAMSON (1929-2011)

The former Burnley captain and manager made 486 appearances for the club in a 17-year playing career which included leading the side to their 1960 league championship success.

Despite finishing on the losing team in the 1962 FA Cup Final, Adamson was named Footballer of the Year and, at the age of 33, included in England's World Cup squad for the tournament in Chile that summer.

Although he never won a senior international cap, he acted as Walter Winterbottom's assistant during the competition and was offered the role of England manager, only to turn it down because he felt he lacked experience, leaving Alf Ramsey to take the reins of the national team.

Valentin IVANOV (1934-2011)

One of the first heroes of Soviet football, Ivanov helped the Soviet Union to their first major international title at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, after edging out Yugoslavia 1-0 in the Final, and was a key member of the team who won the first European Championship title in 1960, when they again beat Yugoslavia, 2-1 in extra time in Paris.

Ivanov, who scored 26 goals in 60 internationals, played in two World Cups, and as well as being the four-goal joint-top scorer at the 1962 finals, in Chile, he also scored twice at the 1958 tournament in Sweden.

Nicknamed "The Ballerina" for his pace and nimble feet, Ivanov spent his entire club career at Torpedo Moscow, scoring 124 goals in 287 matches. He formed a feared partnership with Eduard Streltsov – when the latter was available in between various brushes with authority.

Ivanov's son, also named Valentin, is a retired FIFA international referee who took charge of several games at the 2006 World Cup and Euro 2004.

David CONN

AT THE HEART OF THE GAME

Stan should have stayed silent on Glazers' profit motive

Arsenal's majority owner, "Silent" Stan Kroenke, uttered his first thoughts in public in October, which were so ill-judged he might have done better to maintain his enigma. Kroenke's previously blank image had led Arsenal fans to project their fantasy of a good football club owner, a "custodian" of the club's heritage and values, on to the man from Colorado with the Walmart fortune.

When he finally spoke, he shattered many of those illusions. Quite why he felt the need to mark his debut by praising the Glazers, Manchester United's US owners, who have been reviled for taking almost £500million out of the club, is anybody's guess. The most likely is Kroenke believes it.

He could not understand, he said, why anybody would criticise the Glazers for draining money out – "What is wrong with that?" he asked - as long as United are winning, which they have been, mostly, since the Glazers' 2005 takeover. At the LA Dodgers, Kroenke said, the owners take money out but the fans do not care because the franchise wins.

Kroenke's words were in equal parts mistaken and depressing. They showed ignorance of precisely the heritage and history, both at Arsenal and in football generally, that the fans were persuading themselves Kroenke was somehow the best man to preserve. That was partly because the late Danny Fiszman, Arsenal's outgoing major shareholder, told them Kroenke was – while banking more than £200m from the American for his shares.

> Why he praised the Glazers, reviled for taking £500m out of United, is anybody's guess

There has been a great deal more talk of custodianship around Arsenal while the club's local former shareholders – David Dein, Fiszman, chairman Peter Hill-Wood, Lady Nina Bracewell-Smith and Richard Carr – were becoming multimillionaires by selling their shares, than there ever was when their predecessors served as lifelong directors without being paid a penny.

That is English football's heritage, and the reason the Glazers have been scorned and opposed by United fans, despite serial additions to the trophy cabinet.

American sport has always had franchises with owners. English football has clubs – formed in Arsenal's and Manchester United's cases by workers at the more enlightened end of the industrial revolution. When they became limited companies at the dawn of professionalism in the 1880s, the culture, reinforced by Football Association rules, was that shareholders and directors would serve – not make money from – their clubs, whose sporting character and status as homes of loyalty and belonging were to be preserved, into the commercial future.

The word "custodian" came to be used as the ideal in this tradition of running clubs for the supporters, local town or city, not as vehicles for personal profit. Yet for decades the self-appointed custodians failed football and its fans in serious ways; they were often self-serving, class-riddled and amateurish, and their negligence spiralled into Hillsborough in 1989. The positive legacy was to help nurture a sport of great clubs garnering the adhesive loyalty of generations of supporters.

US incomers like Kroenke, the Glazers and John Henry's Fenway Sports Group at Liverpool have been allowed to take over the greatest clubs built by that different culture, in football, to which the US has never taken. They have mixed motives, but all see vast opportunities to make money for themselves, from media rights, in a game more popular globally than any US sport in which they own franchises.

Whatever the faults of previous generations of shareholder-directors, the idea of buying a club, as the Glazers did, with borrowed money, then loading the debt on to the club, would have been anathema. That, to answer Kroenke, is what is wrong with the Glazers' methods.

With all Arsenal's resources and pomp, somebody could surely have told him this before he broke his silence. WS

"The days when training for German teams meant medicine balls and laps around the track are over. We've made up our technical deficit"

General manager Oliver Bierhoff hails Germany's perfect qualification for Euro 2012

REPORTS we couldn't make up

1 In Iran, Persepolis team-mates Sheis Rezaei (right) and Mohammed Nosrati (left) were suspended after Nosrati squeezed Rezaei's backside in an "inappropriate goal celebration" during a 3-2 win over Damash Gilan.

The punishment for the crime is up to two months in prison and 74 lashes.

2 Mexico's Guadalajara fined two players for a goal celebration in which one pretended to shoot the other in the head, sparking outrage in a country where drugs-related violence has claimed 44,000 lives.

Marco Fabian de la Mora and Alberto Medina were punished for the incident which occurred during the 5-2 league win over city rivals Tecos.

3 A referee in the Czech Republic has launched a protest after police were called to a lower league match in which he was officiating, between Jestrabi Lhota and Tynec-nad-Labem, after they received reports that he was drunk and had sent off three players in apparently random fashion.

"The police had no right to make me take this test," said ref Thomas Fidra after he was forced to undergo a breathalyser test.

The official's blood alcohol content was found to be more than nine times over the Czech drink-driving limit.

4 Former World Player of the Year, Zinedine Zidane has taken to round-the-world yacht racing after a recent trip about Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing's yacht Azzam.

"I enjoy being here and I find it beautiful. I'm impressed," said Zidane after his morning tour aboard the round-the-world boat.

"I thought the boat would be bigger.

"I don't know how the 11 guys on board can still stand each other at the end."

MONTSERRAT

FA bosses facing questions over FIFA cash

Home leg...Montserrat line up before the game against Belize in Trinidad

Two ex-Montserrat coaches will take a six-year claim for unpaid wages from the British colony's football association to the European Court if their latest attempt to get FIFA to settle the matter is ignored.

Scott Cooper and Ruel Fox led Montserrat in the qualifiers for the 2004 Caribbean Cup, but when their wages stopped appearing the pair quit and began a lengthy quest against the Montserrat Football Association (MFA), whose chairman and secretary, Vincent Cassell and Tandica Hughes, are named in FIFA's latest corruption probe (see page 37).

According to a claim that has been put together by Slovakian lawyers GP Legal, Cooper is owed £51,500 for a three-year contract signed in 2004. The claim has been seen by *World Soccer* and was recently sent to FIFA.

Cooper claims FIFA will not help because the MFA insist he was a technical director not a coach. "I had the duties of coach. That was what the contract said too," says Cooper, who was working for an annual salary of £12,000 plus benefits.

Fox was working for around £1,500 a month and the former Tottenham Hotspur and Newcastle United winger brought UK-based professionals into the Montserrat side, such as Tes Bramble, brother of Premier League player Titus. "As soon as we asked Vince for money, it didn't come," says Fox. "We tried calling FIFA but we just got fobbed off."

Montserrat has received nearly $4million in FIFA aid since 1996 but has never won a game or even played at home. There is no league and the only club is a loose collective from the island's police force. When they played Belize in a two-legged World Cup preliminary this summer, the "home" game was in Trinidad and only five island-based players made the original 18-man squad.

FIFA claims Cooper's claim was closed in 2006, and Fox failed to complete the right paperwork so his claim was closed in June 2007. The MFA did not respond to requests for a comment.

Steve Menary

Out of pocket...Ruel Fox

"I've become a slave to Manchester [United]"

Goalkeeper Tomasz Kuszczak reflects on Alex Ferguson's refusal to let him join Leeds United on loan

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Michel returns to coach Nations Cup co-hosts

U-turn...Michel

Henri Michel will coach Equatorial Guinea at the African Nations Cup in January after reversing his decision to quit.

He resigned in October after complaining about "so many funny things happening around my job which I could no longer endure as a professional". But following the firing of sports minister Ruslan Obiang, Michel was persuaded to continue.

The former France coach was hired to oversee the co-hosts preparations for next year's finals, but the country's FA has been criticised for the selection of naturalised Brazilian-born players.

Michel was reported to be keen to promote local-born talent.

ITALY

Mihajlovic is sixth coaching casualty of the Serie A season

Sinisa Mihajlovic was the latest Serie A coach to be fired when he left Fiorentina following a run of mediocre results.

The Serb, who replaced Cesare Prandelli when he was appointed Italy coach last year, was under pressure to claim a top-five place but left Fiorentina in 11th place in the league.

Mihajlovic, who has now been replaced by former Lazio and Palermo boss Delio Rossi, follows Roberto Donadoni (Cagliari) and Stefano Pioli (Palermo), who were fired before the season began, along with Gian Piero Gasperini (who left Inter in September), Pierpaolo Bisoli (Bologna) and Marco Giampaolo (Cesena).

Sixth...Mihajlovic

Paul GARDNER

THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

Why do we bother worrying about encroachment?

Given that blatant encroachment is seen at virtually every penalty kick, and given that it is rarely called by match officials, you have to ask yourself: why bother?

What is the point of a rule that players do not respect and referees ignore?

This farcical state of affairs reached some sort of climax, or nadir, during this season's UEFA Champions League game between the Czech side Viktoria Plzen and Barcelona. As Lionel Messi ran up to take a penalty in the first half, there were nine players already in the penalty area or the "D": five from Plzen, four from Barca.

Messi scored, but when players from both teams encroach the rules decree that the penalty kick must be retaken. But it was not. Apparently no one had seen any encroachment. Not the referee Robert Schorgenhofer from Austria nor his assistant.

Yet Plzen's Frantisek Rajtoral was so blatant in his encroachment that he was actually running right across Schorgenhofer's line of vision – directly between him and Messi as the Argentinian struck the ball - making it quite impossible for the referee not to have seen him.

It is just about credible that Schorgenhofer may have believed that only Plzen players were encroaching - in which case the kick would not need to be retaken. But this is hardly likely as Barcelona's Cesc Fabregas was almost as far into the area as Rajtoral.

> As Lionel Messi ran up to take a penalty for Barcelona against Viktoria Plzen there were already nine players in the penalty area or the "D"

Which leaves us to ponder the inescapable fact that the rules do not specifically allocate any official to control encroachment...except that this was a Champions League game and we have that extra official, the "additional assistant referee" (AAR) as UEFA calls them. So where was he?

Well, he was the one watching the goalkeeper – standing on the goal line where it meets the six-yard box (which is not the recommended FIFA position for the assistant referee at penalty kicks – he is required to be at the juncture of the goal line and the penalty area).

So where is the assistant referee then, if his job is being done by the AAR?

He is now directed to stay on his touchline "in line with the second-last defender" – which is pointless as there is not going to be any offside from a penalty. This new position, however, appears to be a perfect one for detecting encroachment, even if that duty is not mentioned in the rule book.

Evidently there are major problems with the encroachment rule. In the case mentioned earlier, it seems likely that Rajtoral gambled, feeling certain that the referee would not penalise him – after all, how often do they? But Fabregas, seeing Rajtoral racing into the area, would also suspect that the encroachment would not be called, and would therefore feel obliged to track him to counter any obvious Plzen advantage should the ball come back into play.

There are those who believe the current rule against encroachment should be modified to allow encroachment to begin as soon as the referee blows his whistle for the kick to be taken. But this would likely cause the penalty taker to hurry his shot – which is hardly a sensible idea, considering that he, not the goalkeeper, is already the one under pressure.

But moving the players back to a line at the outer limit of the "D" – ie 10 yards from the penalty spot – and parallel to the 18-yard line might work. Starting from that deeper position, the players would not be breathing down the kicker's neck as he shoots. But, as long as encroachment is an offence, FIFA must make it clear that it is the specific responsibility of one of the officials to watch out for it. WS

"Beckham in Paris? It will be good for the big stores in the city"

Michel Platini fails to be enthused by the rumour that Paris Saint-Germain intend to sign David Beckham

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

EUROPE

Former Sweden boss **LARS LAGERBACK** will become the first non-native coach of Iceland's national team for 20 years when he takes over from Olafur Johannesson in January.

In Serie A, **DANIELE ARRIGONI** replaced Marco Giampaolo as coach of Cesena after a 2-0 loss at Parma left the club bottom of Serie A.

CHRISTOPH DAUM, who has won league titles in Germany, Turkey and Austria, was appointed coach of Belgium's Club Brugge.

SLAVISA STOJANOVIC took over from Matjaz Kek as boss of Slovenia, with **LARS OLSEN** replacing Brian Kerr as coach of the Faroe Islands.

LYUBOSLAV PENEV replaced Lothar Matthaus as coach of Bulgaria, while CSKA Sofia appointed his uncle **DIMITAR PENEV**, who guided Bulgaria to the World Cup semi-finals in 1994, as their coach for a fifth time. **ATANAS DZHAMBAZKI** replaced Lyuboslav Penev at Litex Lovech and **NIKOLAY KOSTOV** took over at Levski Sofia.

Stepping up... Lyuboslav Penev (left)

Assistant coach **JAN WOUTERS** has taken charge of Utrecht after former boss Erwin Koeman's contract was terminated by the Dutch club's board.

Basle coach **THORSTEN FINK** replaced Michael Oenning as coach of Hamburg. Basle placed Fink's former assistant **HEIKO VOGEL** in interim charge until the end of December.

Former Germany keeper **TIMO HILDEBRAND** joined Schalke until the end of the season. The 32-year-old had been without a club since being released by Sporting Lisbon in the summer.

Nordsjaelland and Denmark defender **ANDREAS BJELLAND** has agreed to join Holland's Twente on a four-year deal in July 2012.

England Under-21 coach **STUART PEARCE** was picked to coach the Great Britain team at the 2012 Olympics.

Ex-Scotland striker **JAMES McFADDEN** has rejoined Everton until the end of the season. The 28-year-old was sold to Birmingham City for £5million three years ago, but released in the summer after a cruciate knee ligament injury curtailed his involvement last season.

Former Ukraine national coach **OLEKSIY MYKHAYLYCHENKO** has rejoined Dynamo Kiev as sporting director.

Midfielder **MARC PELOSI**, who captained the USA at this summer's Under-17 World Cup, has joined Liverpool.

SOUTH AMERICA

EMERSON LEAO returned to coach Sao Paulo for a second time after Adilson Batista was sacked in the wake of a 3-0 defeat by Atletico Goianiense – their sixth game without a win.

Back in Sao Paulo...Leao

CONCACAF

Uruguay-born **TAB RAMOS**, who won 81 caps for the USA, was appointed coach of his adoptive country's under-20 team. **FRANK KLOPAS**, a Greek native who was a member of the United States' 1994 World Cup squad alongside Ramos, was appointed full-time coach of Chicago Fire.

AFRICA

DENIS LAVAGNE was appointed coach of the Cameroon national team. The Frenchman was previously with the country's domestic champions, Coton Sport.

Zambia have re-appointed French coach **HERVE RENARD** ahead of the African Nations Cup finals in January. He led the side to the quarter-finals of the 2010 tournament in Angola.

Former England Under-21 internationals **SHOLA AMEOBI** of Newcastle United and Wigan Athletic's **VICTOR MOSES** were granted clearance by FIFA to play for Nigeria.

Almost two years after he himself was sacked, **FRANCIS KIMANZI** returned to take over from Zedekiah Otieno as coach of Kenya.

Sitting pretty...Olsen

Olsen carries on until 2014

Denmark coach **MORTEN OLSEN** changed his mind about retiring after next summer's European Championship and has signed a contract extension taking him through to the World Cup in 2014.

Olsen, who took charge in 2000 after making 102 appearances for his country as a player, is the only man to have competed in more than 100 internationals as both a player and coach.

"I share my life with a girl from Lebanon. I've an Arab tattoo. I'm no racist"

Cesc Fabregas of Barcelona denies claims in the Spanish media that he racially insulted Sevilla's African striker Freddie Kanoute

Transfers, sackings and loans

Serbian **MILUTIN SREDOJEVIC**, previously in charge of Sudan's Al Hilal, is Rwanda's new national coach.

Senegal striker **EL HADJI DIOUF**, without a club since leaving Blackburn Rovers at the end of last season, signed a three-month contract with English second-tier side Doncaster Rovers.

Defending Ghana Premier League champions Berekum Chelsea sacked Englishman Steve Pollack and replaced him with Dutch coach **HANS VAN DER PLYUM** four games into the new season after a 1-0 home defeat by Medeama.

ASIA

Ex-Atletico Madrid coach **QUIQUE SANCHEZ FLORES** replaced Ivan Hasek at the helm of United Arab Emirates club Al Ahli after they lost two of their opening three games of the new season.

Former England Under-21 striker **MARCUS BENT** has joined Indonesian Premier League club Mitra Kukar.

GARY VAN EGMOND, who led Newcastle Jets to the Australian title in 2008, is back in charge after Branko Culina was sacked four days before the start of the season.

Jets driven... Van Egmond

Clemente pays for Nations Cup failure

Former Spain boss **JAVIER CLEMENTE** was sacked by Cameroon after they failed to qualify for January's African Nations Cup finals. The Spaniard was appointed in August last year after the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa. Failure to reach the finals also cost **PAUL PUT** of Gambia and Nigeria's **SAMSON SIASIA** their jobs.

Shown the door...Clemente

EUROPE

Club Brugge sacked coach **ADRIE KOSTER** after a 5-4 Belgian league loss to Genk made it four successive defeats in all competitions.

Leicester exit...Eriksson

Ex-England manager **SVEN GORAN ERIKSSON** was sacked by Championship side Leicester City.

Chelsea full-back **JOSE BOSINGWA** who has 24 Portugal caps, said he will not play for his country again while Paulo Bento is coach.

Veteran Iceland striker **EIDUR GUDJOHNSEN** will miss the rest of the season after breaking his right foot in AEK Athens' 1-1 draw with Olympiakos.

Albania did not renew coach **JOSIP KUZE'S** contract following the Euro 2012 qualifiers. The Croatian, who had been in charge since replacing Arie Haan in May 2009, missed several games in 2010 after suffering a stroke.

Aris Salonika coach **SAKIS TSIOLIS** left the club by mutual consent after just six Super League games.

Malta fired coach **JOHN BUTTIGIEG** after picking up one point in the Euro qualifiers.

There are no longer any foreign coaches in the 16-team Bulgarian top flight after Macedonian **DRAGAN KANATLAROVSKI** resigned following Lokomotiv Plovdiv's 3-2 defeat by Levski Sofia.

Wisla Krakow sacked their coach **ROBERT MAASKANT** after losing 1-0 at Cracovia – the Polish club's first defeat away against their local rivals in 27 years.

SOUTH AMERICA

Coach **MIGUEL ANGEL RUSSO** left Estudiantes by mutual consent after a 3-1 defeat at Godoy Cruz left them joint-bottom of the Argentinian apertura.

CONCACAF

STEVE NICOL, the longest serving coach with one club in MLS history, has left New England Revolution by mutual consent after more than a decade in charge of the club.

Colorado Rapids parted company with coach **GARY SMITH**, who led the club to the MLS Cup in 2010.

AFRICA

Belgian **TOM SAINTFIET** quit his position as Ethiopia's national coach.

ASIA

AHN JUNG-HWAN, who scored South Korea's winner against Italy in the 2002 World Cup, left Chinese club Dalian Shide at the end of the Super League season and returned to his homeland.

Coach **LEE YONG-JIN** left Daegu at the end of the K-League season.

Out... Vieira

Last season's UAE Pro-League runners-up Bani Yas dismissed Brazilian coach **JORVAN VIEIRA** after a poor start to the current campaign.

Relegation-threatened J.League side Urawa Red Diamonds dismissed coach **ZELJKO PETROVIC** with five games remaining.

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

Sad memories...Liverpool fans remember the 96 who died at Hillsborough while, inset, Bradford City chairman Stafford Heginbotham (left) and Popplewell at the scene of the fire which claimed 56 lives at Valley Parade

Poppycock from Popplewell on Hillsborough

Et tu, Popplewell! And you! I'm referring to the recent incredibly crass statements about the Hillsborough tragedy emitted by the former leading judge Oliver Popplewell. All the more pungent and deplorable to me, since I so well remember him as the excellent Charterhouse wicketkeeper in a team captained by Peter May, who was, of course, to become captain of England.

Now Popplewell, quite gratuitously, has voiced an insensitive and disgraceful criticism of the mourners of the Hillsborough deaths by comparing them irrelevantly with the reactions of relatives who died in the notorious and wholly avoidable blaze at Bradford City, where 56 supporters needlessly perished.

Comparisons are odious, we are told, and in this case, surely never more so.

I've said before and must say again that I cannot believe much of succour and substance will arise from the shamefully belated release of documents relating to the Sheffield disaster. We know reports that Liverpool fans themselves were responsible for what happened were viciously and ludicrously aired in print. We also know that the chief "suspect" in the appalling disaster, as emphasised in the damning report by Lord Taylor, one judge who stood out for his integrity and perception, was the wretched David Duckenfield, who is reported to have lost his nerve, though the South Yorkshire police still incredibly refuse to take responsibility.

> I cannot believe much of succour will arise from the shamefully belated release of documents relating to the disaster

Poor Duckenfield himself was a victim who should never have been put in charge. It reportedly happened because his predecessor, who had made a perfectly decent job of overseeing the same semi-final in the same place between the same teams a year before, was taken off the task after there had been some kind of horseplay among his officers.

Popplewell was far senior to me and infinitely more prominent at Charterhouse. I met him only once and perhaps our exchange was a trifle indicative. It was at Glasgow airport after a Scotland-England match at Hampden. A fellow Old Carthusian, journalist David

Miller, introduced me to Popplewell who smiled and asked me was I just watching the match, or was I actually reporting it – which seemed a somewhat odd question as by then I had been *The Sunday Times* football correspondent for a good many years.

To say that Popplewell's effusion was at once truly insensitive and wholly gratuitous is to say the least of it. Remembering as I do a deeply poignant moment at San Siro days after the disaster, when the whole vast shelf of Milan fans sang "You'll Never Walk Alone", I can only hope the publication of these papers will bring some kind of catharsis to the relatives of those who died, and shame the monstrous utterances of such as Margaret Thatcher's bombastic press secretary Bernard Ingham who, from the depths of his ignorance, blamed "tanked up" Liverpool fans.

Football still carries scars of racism

By the time you read this I hope and imagine some kind of resolution will have been reached in the drawn out case of John Terry, Anton Ferdinand and the insult that was or never was. Terry admits uttering seemingly racist words, but that they were intended simply as a palliative, a denial that they were in any way a racist insult to Ferdinand, who admits that he didn't even hear them.

What does interest and impress me is the obsessive seriousness with which the whole depressing business has been taken, though why the Metropolitan Police should get themselves involved in a situation which should surely have been handled exclusively by the FA, ask me not.

It's highly indicative, though, to see how seriously the whole episode has been taken, in sharp contrast with bygone years, when racism in English football, both among spectators, players and coaches, was virtually taken for granted. If Terry, captain of Chelsea, has been under examination for supposed racism, what of the fate of poor young black winger Paul Canoville, years ago,

Controversy... Terry and Ferdinand exchange words

Goals keep coming... Arsenal skipper Van Persie celebrates completing his hat-trick at Chelsea

> In bygone years racism in English football, among spectators, players and coaches, was virtually taken for granted

when he was subject to horrific abuse from a gang of neo-Nazi Chelsea supporters? In those bigoted and deluded times, you used to hear that black players were cowards and would never show up on a cold winter's night in Middlesbrough.

I think I can claim to have been the first senior football correspondent to champion the cause of black players and have the short story to prove it. *Black Magic* was the tale of a gifted black player who rose above bigotry and which was first published in the old *Evening News*, and then, to my delight, republished in the London West Indian magazine *The Voice*. I even received a death threat from some wretched little neo-Fascist *groupuscule*.

None of which, years later, in the bleak age of that monumental hypocrisy, political correctness, would save me, as readers of this magazine may remember, from being assailed from all demented sides for daring to say that many leading black players came from one-parent families and were dumped on child minders who couldn't give them the care and attention they needed.

Over the years, I've been fortunate in my friends among black players: Paul Elliott, whom I tried to help, alas, in vain, in his case against Dean Saunders and the challenge which ended his career; and Paul Davis, inspiration of the Arsenal midfield but who came to me when he was being squeezed out of an Arsenal team to which he triumphantly returned. Recently, when I was generously given a birthday celebration by kind colleagues, Paul came all the way from Barnet to Bayswater to be there.

Yet at least racism is being taken seriously in this country. Would that it were taken as seriously by the hypocrites of FIFA, whose so-called *Kick Out Racism* campaign ran out into the sand when they gave racist Russia, whose football is so deeply blemished by it, the 2018 World Cup. Money talks, hypocrisy rules.

Van Persie adds fuel to an age-old debate

Does one man make a team? An eternal football question, recently revived in the case of Arsenal and Robin Van Persie. When he plays, with his power, pace and penetration, Arsenal score. When he doesn't, they find it very hard to do so.

Against Chelsea, at Stamford Bridge, he turned the game when he appeared for the second half, scoring three goals. Days later, against Marseille, when he got on only after 72 minutes, the Gunners struggled and failed to score.

Arsene Wenger, and even the player himself, declared that given his physical condition it was better that he shouldn't play full games. So what happened when Arsenal played West Bromwich Albion four days later? Van Persie played the whole game and galvanised his team.

Beyond doubt Alfredo Di Stefano made that glorious Real Madrid team; yet Brazil won the 1962 World Cup without Pele. Could Argentina ever have won in 1986 without Diego Maradona? The answer to the original question is perhaps yes, but not invariably.

Football may essentially be a team game, but without Di Stefano's supreme ubiquity, would Real have won any of those first five consecutive European Cups? Even Ferenc Puskas, no shrinking violet, readily accepted his dominance, where others, like Brazil's elegant Didi, were marginalised and humiliated. WS

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Special report by
James Montague

Guma Mousa survived Libya's civil war unscathed, but not the first half of a national team game in Tunisia...

Libya's reserve goalkeeper was lying on the pitch at the Stade Abdelaziz, Tunis, unable to walk. The team were preparing for their final, crucial African Nations Cup qualifier against Zambia with a friendly against Tunisian club AS Marsa. It was a fitting venue for the Libyans who were unable to train in Tripoli. After all, Tunisia was the birthplace of the Arab Spring, the revolutions and uprisings that have spread across the Middle East demanding an end to years of autocratic misrule.

Guma Mousa had led a charmed life since protests erupted against Colonel Gaddafi's regime in February. He, along with 17 other players, announced they were joining the Benghazi-based rebel movement when protests snowballed into a full civil war backed by NATO air strikes. It was a huge publicity coup for the rebels in a country where football is the only game in town and whose main derby – between Ittihad and Al Ahly – attracts more than 90,000 fans.

Pictures were taken of Mousa posing with a gun. Another showed him beaming in front of anti-aircraft guns. "I am telling Col Gaddafi to leave us alone and allow us to create a free Libya," he told the BBC in June. "In fact, I wish he would leave this life altogether."

At least half a dozen national-team players joined the front line to fight the rebels, even though then-captain Tariq Taib had declared that the team were behind Gaddafi while declaring that the rebels were "rats and dogs". All except one – Ahmed Alsagir, who was shot in the shoulder, made a full recovery in hospital and then travelled back to the front line to fight - returned to the team unharmed once Gaddafi had fled. But Mousa's luck run out in Tunisia when a vicious tackle from a Marsa forward did what Gaddafi's loyalists could not manage and put him out of action.

The mundane normality of a football-related injury crisis is something Libya would accept with both hands. So far, 2011 has been a momentous news year, but it is the Arab Spring that will endure longest in the memory. It's not surprising that, with protests continuing in Syria and beyond, the sweeping changes redrawing the political map in the Middle East are just the beginning of the story.

But what is a surprise is the role that football has played in the region's political upheaval. The game is a much underrated, political bellwether; a mirror that reflects a society's values, fears, hopes, dreams and hatreds. But football in the Arab world has become much more than simply a reflection of the political maelstrom that has rumbled around it. In many cases its players, fans, owners and administrators have played an important, sometimes even a vital, role in political change.

Casualty...Mousa's knee injury is treated during Libya's game in Tunisia

Rebels with a cause... Libyan footballers Owsma Abdul Salam (left) and Mousa show support for the anti-Gaddafi struggle in the city of Zintat

Reform, democracy and revolution seemed like distant dreams when I first arrived in the Middle East in 2004. The *realpolitik* of the west's American-led war on terror meant that the region's hard men – Gaddafi in Libya, Mubarak in Egypt and Ben Ali in Tunisia, to name just three – were courted and bolstered. Each had their own important role in preventing the spread of radical Islam, or for securing a steady supply of its abundant natural resources. With that loyalty came a constriction on the freedoms their citizens longed for. Protest was all but impossible without sanction by the government. Opposition, if it was allowed, was neutered into irrelevance.

Yet there were still some pockets of public space that fermented discontent and opposition. One was the mosque; the other was on the football terraces. In Jordan, Iran, Libya, Tunisia, Syria and beyond, football clubs and their supporters found space to breathe, even if it was only a little.

Nowhere was this more obvious than in Egypt. When I visited Cairo in 2007, it was to write a story about the Al Ahly-Zamalek derby, the biggest football match in Africa, and arguably the most heated in world football. It was the first time I met Assad, who had only recently set up the Al Ahlawy ultras. Back then it was simply an expression of support for his team, imitating the ultras of his other love, Milan. But that soon changed into something bigger, more political and more organised.

Back then Hosni Mubarak, the president since 1981, seemed untouchable. He had won a disputed landslide election, securing 89 per cent of the vote and, as a journalist for the now defunct Arab newspaper *Daily Star* told me, Egypt felt "desperate and hopeless". Egyptian society was suffocating under three decades of misrule, so much so that the people found refuge in football to escape the hopeless daily grind.

"The two biggest political parties in Egypt are Ahly and Zamalek," Assad said. "It's about escapism." In the beginning, Ahly had only about 50 ultras and they were hopelessly outnumbered by the police. No dissent, except that directed towards their hated city rivals Zamalek, could be heard. Two years later and

Egypt looked a very different place. A crunch World Cup qualifier against Algeria had exposed the moral bankruptcy of Mubarak's regime on a global scale. The government-controlled press relentlessly vilified the Algerians, and four players were injured when their team bus was attacked by 200 stone-throwing Egyptians. *Al Ahram*, the government's mouthpiece, said the Algerians had injured themselves to humiliate Egypt. A French television crew and a FIFA representative had seen the whole thing, but the damage was done. Egypt beat a stunned Algeria 2-0 to set up a play-off five days later.

But it was a pyrrhic victory, and not just because Egypt lost that play-off in Sudan. It left Egypt bereft, humiliated and angry. Mubarak's son and future heir, Gamal, had gone on Nile TV to articulate all sorts of conspiracy theories, making him look petty and childish – behaviour unbecoming of a future leader. It was an important psychological moment: the last person the Egyptians wanted in charge when the elder Mubarak departed was his son. Assad vowed never to support the national team as long as Gamal Mubarak patronised them in such an overt way.

Angry as hell

By January this year Egypt's ultra movement was large, politically literate, anti-government and angry as hell. "Living under Mubarak was like living under communism in eastern Europe... nobody could talk to anyone else who might have the potential to organise," said Assad. We had met up again in March, two months after the revolution, and were on our way to Al Ahly's first game of the restarted season, which had been suspended following a post-Mubarak security vacuum.

"The concept of an independent organisation didn't exist," said Assad. "Not unions, not political parties. Nothing was organised. And then we started to organise football ultras.

"It was just sport then. But to them it was the youth, in big numbers – very smart people – who could mobilise themselves quickly. They feared us.

"The more they tried to put pressure on us, the more we grew in cult status. The ministry and the media, they would call us a violent gang. It wasn't just supporting a team, you were fighting a system and the country as a whole. We were fighting the police, fighting the government, fighting for our rights.

"The police did what they wanted, the government did what they wanted. So the ultras taught us to speak our mind. This was something new, a little bit of a seed that was planted four years later."

The skills that Assad and Al Ahlawy had honed during four years of fighting the police came in handy when the January 25 revolution, and the "Day of Rage" that took place three days later, saw the confrontation between the authorities – who had had decades of experience quashing dissent – and a wholly unprepared public turn increasingly violent.

Loyalist...an Al Ittihad fan holds a picture of Gadaffi during a CAF Champions League game against Egypt's Al Ahly

"I don't want to say we were solely responsible for bringing down Mubarak," said Assad. "But our role was to make people dream, letting them know if a cop hits you, you can hit them back, not just run away. This was a police state. Our role started earlier than the revolution. During the revolution, there was the Muslim Brotherhood, the activists and the ultras. That's it."

Across town, another set of ultras agreed. Zamalek's Ultras White Knights (UWK) were Al Ahlawy's sworn enemy, but the two joined forces for a crucial battle that turned the tide in Tahrir Square.

The New York Times noted that the UWK had been part of the group that stormed, and then torched, the headquarters of Mubarak's despised National Democratic Party. At the so called "Battle of the Camels" – when Mubarak supporters, mounted on camels and armed with machetes, stormed Tahrir Square – the UWK had used their experience of dealing with the police to stop and then detain the riders.

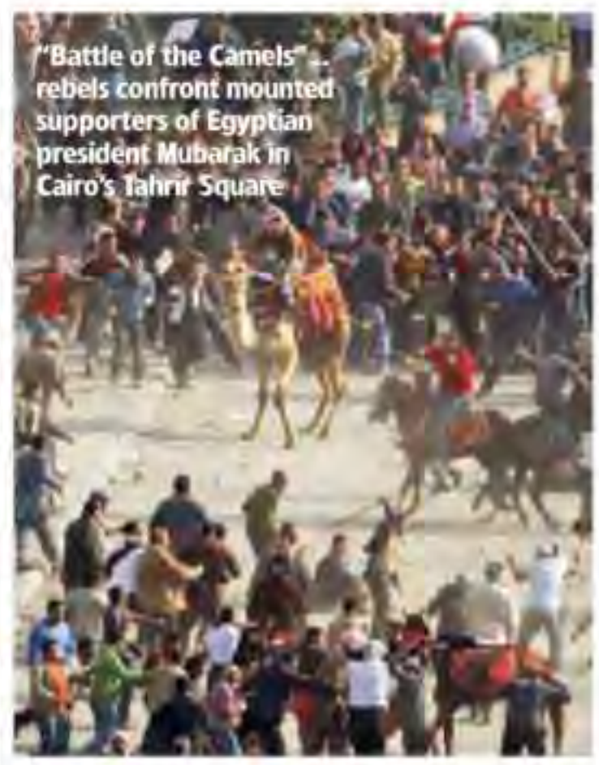
"There is a war between us and the police," said Amir, one of several leaders who organise the ultras' activities. "We are fighting them in every match. We know them. We know when they run, when we should make them run. We were teaching [the protesters] how to throw bricks...hit-and-run tactics.

"At the beginning of the 'Battle of the Camels' people were afraid but we got up and attacked the riders."

"On the 'Day of Rage' we made a plan," added Mohammed, another high-ranking member. "Every group, 20 each, travelled separately. On our own, it was nothing. But together, as a group in the square, we were a big power...maybe 10,000 to 15,000 people fighting without any fear. The ultras were the leaders of the battle."

There was co-operation between other fans from the region too. According to one Al Ahlawy ultra, Tunisian ultras had been sending them tips on how to deal with the inevitable onslaught from the riot police. As a result the ultras all dabbed Pepsi under their eyes, a foolproof antidote to tear gas learnt on the streets of Tunis.

In Bahrain, Syria and Libya it was the players who took centre stage, using their popularity as a weapon, but with different results. When protests broke out on in Bahrain's capital Manama in February, several national-team players – such as A'ala Hubail, his brother Mohamed and former Asian footballer of the year nominee Sayed Mohamed Adnan – joined them.



"Battle of the Camels"... rebels confront mounted supporters of Egyptian president Mubarak in Cairo's Tahrir Square

> "We were not solely responsible for bringing down Mubarak – but our role was to make people dream"
>
> Assad, founder of the Al Ahlawy ultras

Glory game...the former president's son, Gamal Mubarak, hails the Egypt team on their return after retaining the African Nations Cup last year

Bahrain, which has a Sunni Muslim king ruling over a restive Shia Muslim majority, has long punched above its weight on the football pitch. Despite a population of just a few hundred thousand, the national side ("The Red") have come within one goal of qualifying for the past two World Cup finals. But the protesting players were arrested and jailed, along with 150 other players, referees and sporting figures. They were only released when the international press began to highlight their plight as Formula 1's Bahrain Grand Prix approached and when FIFA questioned whether their arrests constituted "political interference".

Adnan has since fled to Australia where he plays for Brisbane Roar, while the rest of those arrested are now

HOW THE GAME PLAYED ITS PART IN NORTH AFRICA'S UPRISING

TUNISIA
Football supporters played a prominent role in anti-government protests, prompting the football federation to ban fans from games in a bid to curb terrace violence.

EGYPT
Ultras from the leading clubs Zamalek and Al Ahly played a key role in the protests against the government of unpopular president Hosni Mubarak.

SYRIA
National goalkeeper Mosab Balhous was arrested on charges of "sheltering armed gangs", prompting Syrian pro-democracy activists to campaign for his release.

JORDAN
A game in Amman between Al Wahdat and Al Faisaly ended in violence, with riot police attacking fans as they spilled on to the pitch after a fence collapsed, injuring 250 people.

LIBYA
National-team players joined up with the rebel forces. Former captain Tariq Taib, a vociferous backer of Gaddafi who dismissed the rebels as "dogs and rats", vanished.

BAHRAIN
Members of the national side that came close to a surprise qualification for the 2006 World Cup were arrested and jailed for taking part in Arab Spring protests.

banned from the national team.

Libya's players, on the other hand, had been faced with the fear of arrest and imprisonment for decades. Gaddafi, like President Ahmadinejad of Iran, was both drawn to the powerful emotions football provokes and appalled that he couldn't control them.

"The period of Gaddafi [rule] was so hard. All the world just knew Gaddafi, because he only wanted himself known and famous," says Libya midfielder Walid El Kahatroushi, who had left the team's training camp before an Africa Nations Cup qualifier in June to take up arms against the ruler. He only returned to the team when his fellow fighters begged him, explaining that qualification would achieve much for the country.

"My club president told me Gaddafi was always annoyed when the derby of Tripoli was played between Ahly and Ittihad and 90,000 people came to see the game. [Gaddafi would say] 'How do so many people come to a game like this. When I give a speech I have difficulty gathering the people?'"

Gaddafi's football obsessive son Saadi had no such qualms. He captained the national team and even made much-mocked brief cameos for Perugia and Udinese in Serie A. But such was his lack of talent Al Ahly fans in Benghazi paraded a donkey with his shirt on during a match in 2000. His father's response was to level the club's training ground and ban them from playing for six years.

Against the odds, Libya made it to January's Africa Nations Cup finals, an event the transitional government will use to try to heal the scars of civil war. A country-wide tour by the victorious team is planned for the tournament.

Delusions of grandeur...Saadi Gaddafi (left) made a brief appearance for Udinese against Cagliari in Serie A

Violent terraces

Elsewhere, in Egypt and Tunisia, the ultras have gone back to fighting among themselves, while keeping a close eye on the police. Jordan's terraces remain as violent as ever, and Syria's league, once the only forum where the army's grip on power was successfully challenged, remains suspended while the national team was thrown out of qualification for the 2014 World Cup for fielding an ineligible player. As the Middle East's revolutions continue, other elements of civil society will join football, diluting its influence. But for now the game remains a way of understanding the region and also a vehicle for change.

Witness to change...Libya's El Kahatroushi (left) takes on James Chamanga of Zambia

Price of revolution...brothers Mohamed (left) and A'ala Hubail have been banned from Bahrain's national team

"As a Libyan player [under Gaddafi] you didn't have the right to decide for yourself [where to play]. You just had to come back to the president's son [Saadi] who was controlling everything. He could decide your value, your value as money, he never let anyone move," explains El Kahatroushi, lamenting the fact that under the previous regime only a handful of loyalists were ever allowed to play in foreign leagues. But within a month of Gaddafi's rule crumbling more than 20 players had signed contracts with foreign teams. Much more are due to follow, enjoying a freedom of movement unthinkable a few years ago.

"Things are changing," adds El Kahatroushi. "The future will be more beautiful." WS

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TIM VICKERY
in Rio de Janeiro

Will 2014 be miles better?

Politics and climate mean teams and fans are in for long-distance travel at the World Cup

Brazil is vast, a country of continental proportions – as players and fans are going to find out during the course of the 2014 World Cup. Some, though, will have to trek round far more than others, with the discrepancies in travel arrangements the standout feature of a tournament schedule which was unveiled by FIFA in October.

"It's been a big task and long work," says secretary-general Jerome Valcke. "We had 57 versions of this match schedule and finally nine on which we have been working. We took into account the medical aspects, logistics, travel and accommodation."

And eventually they came to the conclusion that it was best not to "regionalise" the tournament.

It had been widely thought that 2014 would be forced to revert to the former World Cup custom of dividing up the country and having teams play all of their group games in one of four zones in order to minimise travel times and take some of the strain off Brazil's airport capacity, which has long been seen as the tournament's Achilles heel. In the end, though, there were two persuasive arguments against the regionalisation option: one of them political, the other medical.

Brazil can be extremely insular and when Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo staged the Club World Cup, almost 12 years ago, FIFA president Sepp Blatter noted the local public had shown little interest in those games not involving the two Brazilian teams. There was, therefore, huge pressure from the host cities in different regions to stage matches involving the local heroes in 2014. And the demands to ensure that Neymar and company can be seen across the land means that Brazil will play their group matches in three different regions, opening the tournament in the south east (Sao Paulo), travelling up to the north east (Fortaleza) and then coming part of the way down again to the central west area (Brasilia). This caused howls of anguish in Rio de Janeiro as the only way that Brazil can play in the Maracana will be if they reach the Final.

The medical argument against regionalisation was based on the fact that this will be a winter World Cup in a country where the season bites hard in the south and leaves the north untouched. Porto Alegre and Curitiba can be bitterly cold in June and July, with evening temperatures as much as 35°C lower than daytime levels in the north east. Clearly, a team based in the south for all of its group games, spending weeks shivering in the winter frost, would then feel at a physical disadvantage when forced to move north for a knockout game. Having everyone move around the country minimises such problems of acclimatisation.

It is surely with this in mind that the south's role in the World Cup has been cut back – though, forever on the lookout for battles of personal interest, the Brazilian media seized on a revenge motive. Brazil's president, Dilma Rouseff, has no time for Ricardo Teixeira, the long-time boss of Brazil's FA and also head of the Local Organising Committee. And since Porto Alegre is Rouseff's political power base, it is argued Teixeira would have enjoyed cutting the city – Brazil's third in terms of footballing importance – down to just five games. Curitiba has the host city minimum of four.

Whatever the reason, the south has been relegated to a subsidiary role. Twelve teams will visit the region, four of them playing two of their group games there. Whoever is drawn as the fourth team in Group E has an especially tough time, with matches in Porto Alegre and Curitiba followed by a four-hour flight to Manaus, the tropical rainforest city at the other end of the country.

Welcome to Rio...a fan hands Lucio a World Cup replica but the tournament schedule means Brazil will not play in their largest city unless they reach the Final

All teams will travel, but some will travel far more than others. Brazil, with their three group games in three different regions, will clock up 2,436 miles. Their second opponents will stay in the north east throughout, travelling just 720 miles, with the other two teams in the group flying north to Manaus and

All systems go...Santos Dumont, Rio de Janeiro's second largest airport, will need upgrading to cope with extra traffic during the World Cup

Under construction...the Arena da Amazonia in Manaus, a city with little football tradition but hoping to benefit from a tourist boom during the World Cup

totalling around 3,700 miles.

One team in Group G can base themselves happily in the north east – with games in Salvador, Fortaleza and Recife – but the luckiest must surely be the team in Group H whose three south-eastern cities (Belo Horizonte, Rio and Sao Paulo) are just 430 miles apart and will provide pleasantly mild temperatures.

One eminently sensible feature of the schedule has been the insertion of a rest day after the group phase, giving teams more time to recuperate before the knockout stage begins.

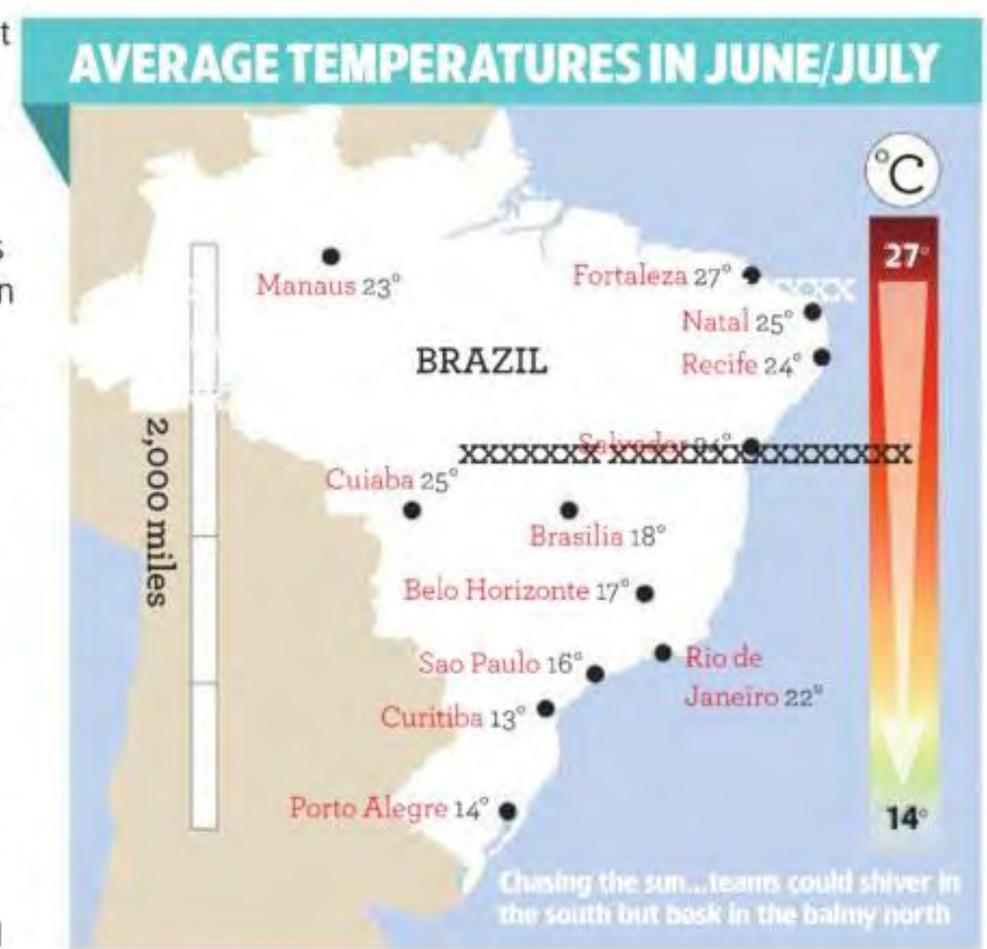
Expensive destination

While players and coaching staffs will be concerned at the draining effects of air travel, fans should be worried about their wallets. Brazil has become an expensive destination and the need to keep flying around the country will add to the cost, especially as public transport options at airports are often inadequate and taxis take advantage with extortionate prices.

Bigger than the strain on supporters' budgets, however, is the pressure on the Brazilian government to increase airport capacity. Three of the most important airports are set to be privatised in a bid to speed up the process. In this race against time, there must surely be moments when the government regrets the passivity of its previous stance, when it stood idle as Teixeira successfully lobbied for the number of host cities to be increased to 12, but then refused to take responsibility for naming them, passing the decision on to FIFA. The complexity and the delays meant costs would inevitably spiral, with a massive bill for the government to pick up.

In the long term, of course, this is seen as investment, with the country benefiting from a boom in tourism. There was no other reason to build stadiums in Manaus and Cuiaba, which are cities of little footballing tradition but close to two of Brazil's great natural attractions: the Amazon rainforest and the Pantanal wetlands respectively.

The latest fear in the country is that corruption scandals may scare away investors and tourists, but the more optimistic view remains that there is nothing that cannot be fixed by a month's football staged in a glamorous setting. **WS**



Chasing the sun...teams could shiver in the south but bask in the balmy north

See page 84, for further details of the 2014 World Cup draw

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI in Warsaw

Mixed blessings

Poles are approaching the Euro 2012 draw with a mixture of pride and fear

At home...a fan outside Gdansk's PGE Arena before the friendly against Germany

No European tournament has been "switched" to another country more often than Euro 2012. Since UEFA's announcement, in Cardiff in 2007, that "the hosts for the final tournament of the UEFA European Football Championship in 2012 will be... Poland/Ukraine", the Polish media have regularly published stories that could have undermined the original decision.

So when UEFA president Michel Platini commented that he had seen "many changes since my last visit two years ago" while on a routine inspection in October, not only did he appear to be very satisfied with the current state of Poland's preparations, it was also clear that nobody was going to take Euro 2012 away from the country.

If you wanted to describe the expectation among Poles before the tournament, it is pride mixed with hope and fear; proud that they will be able to display some "traditional Polish hospitality", but aware that the nation has never been a host of such a big tournament before.

"We're expecting between 800,000 and one million visitors," says Michal Nykowski, who is chairman of the Polish tourism development agency. "We believe that the image of Poland will be changed forever."

Euro 2012 is a huge opportunity for the former communist country to enjoy further economic development, eight years after joining the European Union.

"Not only the stadiums, but the whole infrastructure – roads, airports, train stations – will be used by the people of Poland and Ukraine after UEFA Euro 2012," Platini declared after his official meeting with the Polish prime minister Donald Tusk.

Three stadiums for the tournament are already in use by local teams: Lech in Poznan, Lechia in Gdansk and Slask in Wroclaw. The fourth, in Warsaw, is now expected to be open in December after its initial launch was delayed from June because work was needed to reinforce the stairwells.

The three totally new stadiums – in Warsaw, Gdansk and Wroclaw – look great and comparisons with new grounds in London, Munich or Cape Town are not out of place.

> "The image of Poland will be changed for ever"
> **Michal Nykowski, chairman of Polish tourism development agency**

The German FA was the first federation to officially confirm, soon after its national side qualified for the finals, that its team base would be the Dwor Oliwski hotel in Gdansk – which prompted Poland's minister for sport and tourism, Adam Giersz, to declare: "Today we can say that we are ready."

However, it's still a bit too early for such a declaration.

Getting to Poland should not be difficult because four modernised airports in the host cities will be ready to welcome fans and officials, but getting around will be a problem. Parts of the main motorways connecting Warsaw with Poznan and Gdansk are still under construction and will only be completed just before the tournament kicks off, while there will be no highway between Poznan and Wroclaw, and the railway system is still being brought up to a standard expected by visitors. "The journey times between two host cities should not exceed two-and-a-half to five hours, depending on the cities," is the official line on travel.

For Polish fans the biggest problem is getting hold of match tickets after more than 12 million requests were submitted.

In the shadow of all of these issues, national coach Franciszek Smuda is trying to build a team strong enough to meet huge expectations. Grzegorz Lato, the Polish FA chairman, says "the knockout stage is our minimum aim", but, as co-hosts, Poland have played only friendlies for the last two years.

The 2-2 draw with Germany in Gdansk in September was definitely more than a friendly. Poland have never beaten their neighbours and led 2-1 only to be pegged back in the last minute of injury time.

"The atmosphere in the dressing room was horrible, it felt like losing the European Championship Final," said Poland and Arsenal goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny. The chances of being in that position next July are slim, however.

Szczesny, along with Borussia Dortmund striker Robert Lewandowski, is one of the rising stars of international football, but it is difficult to find any other Poles in key roles at leading European clubs. In urgent need of reinforcing the team, Smuda has given debuts to players with Polish roots who recently received Polish citizenship: Ludovic Obraniak (Lille), Sebastian Boenisch (Werder Bremen), Adam Matuszczyk (Cologne), Eugen Polanski (Mainz) and Damien Perquis (Sochaux).

Despite the new additions, Smuda will need as much luck as possible in the draw. It may be the only way of ensuring a place in the knockout stage. WS

OLEG ZADERNOVSKY
in Kiev

Papering over the cracks

Fantastic new stadiums – but Ukraine still has problems to solve

The recent dramatic, Soviet-style unveiling of two Euro 2012 stadiums – in Kiev (capacity 70,050) and Lviv (34,915) – calmed UEFA chiefs and pleased members of the Ukrainian government, but it could barely hide the numerous shortcomings the country still has to eliminate before the start of the finals tournament in June.

Nevertheless, Ukrainian authorities are happy to have fulfilled the main UEFA demand expressed in an ultimatum by Michel Platini 18 months ago. "I'm worried," said the UEFA president in March 2010. "If the stadium in Kiev is not finished then we will not go there – and if there is no Kiev then no Ukraine."

Platini also warned that UEFA may even go ahead without Lviv and play more matches in other cities, adding: "In Lviv it is not good at all. I'm worried because the stadium in this city has made no progress whatsoever, not even an inch."

Eighteen moths later, Platini's words have had a magical effect. After his visit in September this year, Platini said that he no longer worries about the preparations for Ukraine and Poland.

The latest Euro 2012 stadium was opened in Lviv – where the first official game of football in Ukraine took place in 1894 – even though the building work had not been completed. Two days before the opening ceremony, two holes appeared in the roof, while spectators were shocked by the amount of debris in the arena, along with three cranes. Others struggled to find their places as the seats had not been screwed in. So it came as no surprise when the country's president, Viktor Yanukovych, failed to attend a ceremony that featured 2,000 volunteers and artistes.

Twenty days earlier the Ukraine president had announced, in front of 50,000 spectators, the completion of the prospective Euro 2012 Final venue in Kiev, just over three years after work began. The cost of the Olimpiyskiy revamp has tripled, rocketing from initial estimates of £94million to £310m in just 36 months.

"Besides the second concrete tier built in 1968, nothing is left of the old stadium," said Ukraine's deputy prime minister, Borys Kolesnikov, who is also in charge of Euro 2012 infrastructure. "Everything else, including everything around the stadium, is all brand new."

> "Everything Ukraine has built will be in place"
> **Borys Kolesnikov, Deputy prime minister**

However, the broadcast compound and corporate hospitality areas have yet to be completed and much of the area adjacent to the arena still looks like a building site.

While UEFA is happy Ukraine has almost resolved the issue of stadiums, it would like to see the same progress in finishing roads and other transportation issues. As a result, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has increased the projected cost of the preparations for Euro 2012 by £275m, bringing the total cost to the taxpayer of £9billion. Kolesnikov, the key figure in overseeing the infrastructure work, suffered a heart attack and underwent surgery in January, but strongly believes everything will be in place in six months time.

"I'm fully confident that we will have a great football tournament," he says. "Everything that Ukraine has built will be in place, absolutely everything."

Six months after returning as national coach, Oleg Blokhin is still looking for the right blend in his squad. "The biggest problem I'm facing is the shortage of quality players at the top Ukrainian clubs," he says. "It's abnormal when I have to select players who polish the bench for clubs where owners rely heavily on foreigners."

Blokhin – who has already used 40 players in seven friendlies and has tried four different goalkeepers – guided Ukraine to the quarter-finals of the 2006 World Cup but is not making any promises about Euro 2012, saying: "It is really difficult to prepare the team without competitive football."

Three wins and four losses – including 4-1 and 1-0 defeats by Euro 2012 rivals France and Sweden – has sounded the alarm bells for the co-hosts. "It was not the sort of quality we need to present to our fans ahead of Euro 2012 finals," says Blohkin. WS

Spectacular... fireworks light up the night sky at the opening of the revamped Olimpiyskiy stadium in Kiev

EURO 2012 DRAW

QUALIFIED TEAMS	ranking*
Spain	1
Holand	2
Germany	3
Italy	4
England	5
Russia	6
Greece	8
Sweden	9
Denmark	10
France	12
Ukraine (co-hosts)	14
Poland (co-hosts)	28

PLAY-OFF CONTENDERS	
Croatia	7
Portugal	11
Rep Ireland	13
Czech Rep	15
Turkey	18
Bosnia	19
Montenegro	35
Estonia	37

*rankings correct at 12.10.11

The draw for the finals takes place on December 2 in Kiev. Four groups will be drawn from four sets of seeds.

The top seeds will be co-hosts Poland and Ukraine, holders Spain and the best-ranked team in UEFA's National Team Co-efficient Rankings (which is currently Holland).

UEFA's rankings are due to be updated after the play-offs – which could result in the successful play-off teams raising their co-efficient.

PAUL GARDNER
in New York

20/20 vision

A team based in New York City is looking like the ideal 20th franchise for MLS

MLS commissioner Don Garber delivered his annual State of the League message in a decidedly jaunty tone. And why not, as he has plenty to feel upbeat about.

For starters, MLS has just completed its 16th season. Big deal, you say? In truth, it is a very big deal, because MLS is now challenging history – and winning. The historical comparison is with the old North American Soccer League (NASL) whose 16th season, played in 1984, was its last. Having shrunk from 24 teams to nine in just four years, the NASL collapsed in 1985 and disappeared from the American sporting map.

Rather than shrinking, MLS is expanding. It has 18 teams, rising to 19 next year with the addition of Montreal Impact, and after that comes the exciting – but difficult – matter of the 20th team.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES IN 2011

MLS now attracts more spectators than sports such as ice hockey and basketball

There is interest in Las Vegas and Detroit in acquiring an MLS team, but a huge groundswell has arisen to make an almost irresistible case that the 20th team take up residence in New York City.

Garber has encouraged this idea and now talks openly of "several" ownership groups that want to be awarded the rights to operate a team in New York – although they are not "awarded"; they have to buy those rights from the league for around £40million.

In a vague way, MLS already has its New York team – the New York Red Bulls – but they operate and play in New Jersey. The city awaits a real New York team, a glitzy, winning team like the Cosmos of the defunct NASL used to be.

In 2009 a group of Brits, led by Paul Kemsley, bought the rights to the old Cosmos name and logos, and tried to relaunch the team, with the aim of nabbing that 20th-team berth.

Not surprisingly, that effort has run aground. Kemsley has fallen out with the Saudi Arabians who backed the bid and he has departed. However, a new management group is set to take over and they have stated that nothing will change: the aim is still to play in MLS.

But Garber now speaks confidently of "several" potential ownership groups in New York, stating: "We'll have no problem getting an ownership group for New York...once we get the stadium situation right."

New York's problem

The big problem for a New York team is where to play. MLS will not award the rights unless the bidders either have a soccer-specific stadium or have advanced plans to build one.

As no such stadium exists in the city, so a new one will have to be built – and in New York, starting with the cost of the land, that means spending a lot of money.

"We have a staff member working on it full time, along with designers and architects," says Garber, "We have identified two or three viable sites."

Garber says he can work with the new Cosmos group – "we like the new ownership" – but then he also says that Kemsley was a "good guy", an opinion that sits awkwardly with Garber's previous attitude, which was evidently one of keeping Kemsley at arm's length.

The new Cosmos ownership has not started well. They are being sued by a New York youth club, BW Gottschee, for non-payment of some £125,000, money that was due on August 1. Cosmos and Gottschee entered into an agreement under which a training academy was formed, to be run by Gottschee but bearing the Cosmos name, with Cosmos paying all expenses for organization, coaches, travel, hotels and for the boys involved. Without that money, Gottschee has had to face the embarrassment of being forced to revert to its old system of charging the players' parents.

Shortly before Garber delivered his report, the league received some pretty encouraging statistics, with the average attendance for the 2011 regular season games (not including the play-offs) being the league's highest ever. The television audience has increased, too, though the actual number of viewers per game (between 75,000 and 320,000) is puny compared to the baseball and gridiron football numbers. For 2012, MLS has dropped the Fox Soccer network and signed a contract with NBC Sports.

Hidden in the TV viewing statistics is the fact that the MLS team that consistently pulls in the best ratings are Los Angeles Galaxy. Their home attendances (23,335) are the second highest in the league (topped only by Seattle with an extraordinary 38,496), while they also attract the most fans for their away games.

A large part of Galaxy's popularity is, of course, down to the presence of David Beckham, with Garber saying: "Beckham has delivered – in all the aspects of our expectations, both on and off the field.

"He's a very popular guy, on the sports pages, on the people pages – we benefit from that. MLS would not be what it is today without him. It hasn't been perfect but, all in all, he's been a big success."

But as far as Beckham's contribution on the field goes that is debatable.

In four years of life with Beckham, Galaxy have won nothing. That may well change as he approaches the end of his fifth, and contractually final, year with Galaxy as they are through to the MLS Cup Final – a game to be played, by happy chance, in their own stadium, where they have not lost all season.

For most of his years with Galaxy, Beckham has been a marginal figure, constantly absent from the playing field as he travelled in search of England caps, or on loan to other clubs, or sidelined by injuries, or attending royal weddings. There remains a big question as to how deep Beckham's commitment to Galaxy, and to American soccer, goes.

Asked if he expected Beckham to return to Galaxy next year, Garber replied: "We hope to see him back, but I don't know that I expect him to be back."

Garber's benevolent mood extended to embrace another of the league's super stars, Thierry Henry – though his season with Red Bulls has been a good deal less successful than Beckham's.

Expectations of a Galaxy-Red Bulls Final were high, simply because these were the league's biggest spenders. Galaxy came through, but Bulls made a terrible mess of things. By the end of the regular season they were playing so poorly that they only just squeaked into the play-offs as the 10th – and last – team to qualify. And they were quickly eliminated – by Galaxy, who beat them 1-0 in New York, and 2-1 in LA. WS

• *Next month: MLS Cup Final report*

Name game...the New York Red Bulls actually play their home games in Harrison, New Jersey

BRIAN HOMEWOOD in Zurich

Hooligans halt Zurich derby

A Super League game was abandoned for the first time after fans went on the rampage

Switzerland's hooligan problem hit a new low when October's Zurich-Grasshoppers derby was abandoned in the second half because of rioting supporters.

Trouble erupted when a group of balaclava-wearing fans jumped on to the running track and threw a firework into the Grasshoppers section of the stands after their supporters had angered their rivals by burning a Zurich flag. One man was jailed for six months as a result of the incidents.

Although this was the first time that a top-flight game in Switzerland had been abandoned because of crowd trouble, it had become an increasingly likely scenario as there have been plenty of ugly scenes in and around stadiums.

The worst came in the decisive match of the 2005-06 championship when Zurich won 2-1 at Basle with an injury-time goal that clinched the title. Zurich's celebrating players were chased off the field by home supporters and a firecracker – which fortunately missed – was thrown at one of the team. Police had to use a water cannon and rubber bullets to restore order and trouble flared long into the night.

Fighting on the pitch broke out at the 2008 Swiss Cup Final between Sion and Young Boys followers, while Sion and Lausanne fans clashed in the following year's Cup semi-final in one of several unsavoury incidents that season.

Earlier this year, Zurich police released a video which showed Basle fans attacking them outside the Letzigrund stadium. The hooligans used rubbish bins, benches, tables and security barricades to attack the police, while catering stands in the ground were looted, electronic ticket scanners at the entrances were broken and toilets, sinks and mirrors were smashed in the bathrooms. Surprisingly, only 10 people were reported injured.

Since 2006, a number of measures have been brought in, often inspired by solutions used abroad, but they have been implemented in dribs and drabs rather than as part of a coordinated plan and have failed to contain the problem.

To start with, clubs were ordered to take greater responsibility for their fans at away games and they had to organise ticket sales for their sections of the stadium themselves. Visiting clubs were also made to take personal details of all their supporters and provide an observer who would then report violent incidents.

The government also introduced a national hooligan database, travel restrictions for known troublemakers and increased police powers. The blacklist of those who are banned from stadiums and have to report to police stations when matches are being played has risen to nearly 1,200 this year.

More recently, there has been a clampdown on alcohol sales at stadiums and an increase in the use of video surveillance equipment.

Yet the problem continues, with trains routinely smashed up and firecrackers still a frequent sight in the stadiums.

Embarrassingly, the latest incident at the Zurich-Grasshoppers game came exactly a month after a round table on violence in sport ended with sport minister Ueli Maurer saying that it was not a federal matter and telling cantons (local councils) and clubs to come up with the solutions.

> "I feel co-operation [between the league, clubs and police] could be better"
>
> **Claudius Schafer, Swiss league director of legal affairs**

"I think the biggest challenge is getting the clubs, the leagues and the police to agree on the same strategy," says Claudius Schafer, the director of legal affairs at the Swiss Football League. "Sometimes I have the feeling that this cooperation could be better."

The government has since suggested three further measures: a ban on fireworks at games, a ban on hoodies so that hooligans cannot cover their faces and tickets with electronic identity codes.

Security was quickly stepped up for Zurich's next home match, which was against old rivals Basle, but nobody could have predicted the outcome. Greeted by hundreds of police when their train arrived in Zurich, the visiting fans took offence and decided to boycott the game. They simply got back on the train and went home.

At least some sort of peace broke out at the Letzigrund, although the result was even more empty spaces than usual at a stadium where the running track and swathes of unoccupied seats combine to turn it into a soulless place at the best of times.

However, it was not all doom and gloom. Three days later a firecracker was thrown onto the field by a Thun supporter during a game against Zurich – but he soon found himself disowned by fellow fans, who handed him over to the police. WS

Watching brief...security guards keep an eye on the away fans' end at the Letzigrund after many Basle supporters boycotted the game against Zurich

LES MURRAY in Sydney

Returning Socceroos add domestic glamour

Homecoming of Kewell and Emerton boosts ailing A-League

Back...Kewell (centre) and Emerton (partly hidden, second right)

When the A-League lost its best player, Argentinian midfielder Marcos Flores, to the richer Chinese Super League in June it looked like a bitter if not final blow to Australia's flagging professional competition.

Flores, Adelaide United's dazzling playmaker and scorer of spectacular goals, won the 2011 players' player award – the Johnny Warren Medal – earlier this year, but by then the news was out that he was on his way to Henan Jianye on a deal that was worth three times what he was being offered in Adelaide.

The 26-year-old was the A-League's biggest draw and his exit came at the end of a difficult three years which have seen steadily declining attendances, falling TV ratings, growing financial losses and the end of one club completely.

Average attendances, which nudged 15,000 in 2007-08 and almost rivalled those of rugby league, slumped to below 9,000 last season. The campaign's champion club, Brisbane Roar, had to be taken over by Football Federation Australia to save them from demise, and North Queensland Fury, who were bleeding financially, were shut down. For the A-League, the world appeared to be nearing an end.

However, the new season began in October with a significant bounce. Attendances are on the increase, TV viewing figures are also up and the competition has regained much of its lost media profile.

> When Melbourne Victory played Sydney, more than 40,000 fans turned up

The two most apparent reasons for this are the A-League's kick-off not overlapping with the winter seasons of the market-marauding rival codes – rugby league and Australian rules football – and an injection of star quality with two high-profile Socceroo returnees.

The iconic Harry Kewell, formerly a star attraction at Leeds United, Liverpool and Galatasaray, came home to join Melbourne Victory among much protracted fanfare, while Brett Emerton, a long-term servant of Blackburn Rovers, rejected the offer of a contract extension in the Premier League to return to his birthplace and join Sydney on a three-year deal.

As fate would have it, Melbourne Victory and Sydney met in the opening round of league games and over 40,000 turned up at Melbourne's Etihad Stadium to see a thrilling 0-0 draw. The league's five games that weekend brought an average gate of just under 16,000.

The hype surrounding Kewell and Emerton will doubtless continue for some time; and Kewell, for his part, will need it if he is to make a decent income. In a unique deal, the 33-year-old is on an almost entirely performance-based contract at Victory, where he is reliant on a percentage of additional revenues brought in by his presence, including gate takings, membership fees, club sponsorship and merchandising.

Having had their license bought by a wealthy Indonesian mining concern, Brisbane Roar are financially secure once more. Beaten just once last season as they played an eye-catching brand of pass-and-move football, coach Ange Postecoglou has overcome some big departures in the close season – among them Matt McKay, who joined Scottish club Rangers – and the Roar remain a good bet to retain their title. WS

THE 2011-12 A-LEAGUE: FOLLOW YOUR TEAM, OVER LAND AND SEA

Australia is huge compared to Europe (see left) and the only local derby takes place in Melbourne, where Heart and Victory share the Etihad Stadium.

The pair's next closest rivals are Adelaide United, who are 405 miles away.

However, that is nothing compared to the 3,267 miles that separates Wellington Phoenix and Perth Glory – a journey of almost seven hours by plane.

LASANA LIBURD
in Port of Spain

Hurricane season for CONCACAF

FIFA should be wary of Caribbean response to bribery scandal

Caribbean clash...Trinidad & Tobago (in red) and Bermuda line up before a World Cup qualifier in September

The Caribbean Football Union (CFU) has no leader, no money, no friends and no home. For the past seven months the Caribbean has endured a protracted, humiliating public battering from FIFA as a result of its shameful role in the bribery scandal that overshadowed the 2011 FIFA presidential election and led to a life ban for former AFC president Mohamed Bin Hammam after he offered CFU members bribes of $40,000 at the Hyatt hotel in Port of Spain.

Arguably, the CFU heaped the greatest indignities on itself through the shameless posturing of ex-CONCACAF president Jack Warner – who quit FIFA after being suspended alongside Bin Hammam – and the dishonest testimonies from the majority of its 25 members. Not done yet, the CFU further proved its ineptitude through admission that, after 32 years in existence, there isn't even cash in its accounts to fund the federation's presidential election, which is set for Jamaica on November 20.

Remarkably, though, the Caribbean can emerge from the wreckage stronger than ever as a political force and Sepp Blatter can be forgiven for looking uneasily towards events in Jamaica.

Warner's hasty departure, and the impending exit of his estranged former general secretary Chuck Blazer, called time on an era which began 21 years ago under the blessing of former FIFA president Joao Havelange. Greed appeared to do for them both. But the formula for CONCACAF domination still works and a new Caribbean leader will play a major role in the confederation.

Paradoxically, Warner's dictatorial rule owed everything to democracy. Twenty five of CONCACAF's 35 associations belong to the CFU. The CFU members have managed just three World Cup qualifying spots – excluding Cuba's guest appearances in 1934 and 1938 – but, collectively, they have more than twice the voting power of South America and can dictate to bigger, more illustrious neighbours like Mexico and the US.

Already, there is a talk of secession from all sides. North and Central America are loathe to contemplate another spell of political subservience to the islands, while some Caribbean officials would prefer to go it alone, like Oceania.

If FIFA's sanctions and patronising tone were meant to tame a region that had arguably got too big for its boots, Blatter might have overplayed his hand.

> The penalties for CFU delegates caught taking bribes differed widely

Eyewitness accounts allege that as many as 21 of the 25 CFU delegates left Port of Spain with a brown envelope stuffed with cash, yet the penalties differed widely.

Guyana FA president and CFU vice-president Colin Klass, for instance, received a 26-month ban for unethical conduct and failure to disclose a breach of ethics. But were the other 12 associations, who wrote to FIFA insisting that nothing untoward happened in Port of Spain, not just as guilty?

Horace Burrell, another CFU vice-president as well as Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) president and CONCACAF executive committee member, got a six-month ban and Franka Pickering, the British Virgin Islands president, got an 18-month ban and £350 fine before promptly quitting. The rest were suspended for a month or less.

Trinidad & Tobago Football Federation (TTFF) general secretary Richard Groden, for instance, swore publicly to FIFA investigators and the press that the entire matter was a vendetta against Warner and there was no bribe. As the pressure intensified, Groden changed his story and was just warned for his deceit. Groden, like many implicated officials, has not repaid a cent. Others, such as the Grenada FA duo of Chenny Joseph and Victor Daniel, were never fingered by FIFA at all despite allegations to the contrary in their homeland.

Still, there are certainly no teary eyes for Warner or Blazer.

Warner installed recently retired and shamed TTFF president Oliver Camps as chairman of the CONCACAF and CFU financial committees, while a third Trinidadian, Kenny Rampersad, who is also Warner's business partner, owns the auditing firm that looks after the accounts of the TTFF, the CFU and CONCACAF.

The shambolic finances of the TTFF and CFU exposed Warner's true motives.

While Blatter sidestepped Warner's "tsunami", leaks of huge, secret marketing commissions paid to Blazer allegedly brought unwanted attention from the FBI and the ire of member associations. *World Soccer* understands that Blazer was asked to resign as a result, although he remains tight-lipped regarding his exit.

At present, Honduras' Alfredo Hawit serves as acting CONCACAF president while Ariel Alvarado of Panama is tipped to replace Blazer. But Central America's gains are likely to be short-lived. Either Harold Taylor (Trinidad), Derrick Gordon (Antigua) or Tony James (Jamaica) will probably be calling the shots by next year.

Warner ally

Taylor, a long-time friend of Warner, is a former CONCACAF Goal officer and CFU general secretary. The CFU format of vote by acclamation rather than secret ballot might intimidate anyone indebted to Warner from speaking out.

James, a former JFF president and CONCACAF ExCo member, is the moderate choice and well regarded in his homeland. However, James was proposed and seconded by Bahamas and Bermuda – two associations that cooperated with FIFA investigators – and might struggle to win over aggrieved CFU officials.

Gordon is a middle-of-the-road choice for delegates although he remained under investigation by FIFA's Ethics Committee in the build-up to the election.

Burrell was the other candidate before his six-month suspension ruled him out.

The new CFU president, if one is elected, cannot have a quorum with both vice-presidents (Klass and Burrell) suspended and is likely to declare both posts vacant and stage another bout of elections.

Fresh faces and ideology would surely be a relief for the confederation, but it is unlikely to happen this year. WS

WHO'S WHO IN THE CARIBBEAN BRIBERY SCANDAL

FIFA's Ethics Committee launched an investigation into the alleged payment by Mohamed Bin Hammam of bribes totalling $1 million to officials from the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) at a meeting in Trinidad on May 10. The meeting was organised as part of Bin Hammam's unsuccessful campaign to unseat Sepp Blatter as FIFA president. CFU delegates were allegedly offered envelopes each containing $40,000.

In addition to Bin Hammam (life ban), Jack Warner (resigned from all football) and Chuck Blazer (quit as CONCACAF general secretary), the following officials have been charged or are being investigated by FIFA:

Out of football...Warner

BANNED
Colin Klass (Guyana) 26 months
Franka Pickering (British Virgin Islands) 18 months, £350 fine
Horace Burrell (Jamaica) six months (three suspended)
Osiris Guzman (Dominican Republic) 30 days, £210 fine

Ban and fine...Hypolite

Ian Hypolite (St Vincent & Grenadines) 30 days, £210 fine
Lisle Austin (Barbados) 12 months *(for an attempt to sack Blazer and succeed Warner at CONCACAF)*

REPRIMANDED & FINED
Aubrey Liburd (British Virgin Islands) £210 fine
Hillaren Frederick (US Virgin Islands) £210 fine

REPRIMANDED
Anthony Johnson (St Kitts and Nevis)

WARNED
David Hinds (Barbados)
Mark Bob Forde (Barbados)
Richard Groden (Trinidad & Tobago)
Yves Jean-Bart (Haiti)
Horace Reid (Jamaica)

CLEARED
Felix Ledesma (Dominican Republic)

POSTPONED
Noel Adonis (Guyana)
Patrick Mathurin (St Lucia)

CASES CLOSED
David Frederick (Cayman Islands)
Joseph Delves (St Vincent & Grenadines)

UNDER INVESTIGATION
Raymond Guishard (Anguilla)
Damien Hughes (Anguilla)
Everton Gonsalves (Antigua & Barbuda)
Derrick Gordon (Antigua & Barbuda)
Lionel Haven* (Bahamas)
Patrick John (Dominica)
Philippe White (Dominica)
Vincent Cassell (Montserrat)
Tandica Hughes (Montserrat)
Oliver Camps* (Trinidad & Tobago)
** quit their positions so will avoid any possible punishments*

MICHAEL CHURCH

No end to the chaos

An international ban may have been averted, but domestic problems remain

Lone stars...Persib Bandung (in blue) take on Semen Padang on the opening day of the troubled Premier League

The more things change in the fractured, unfathomable world of Indonesian football, so the ineptitude shown by the regime previously running the game in south-east Asia's most populous nation has been replicated with more of the same by their replacements.

After months of wrangling and a bitter feud that led to the creation of a rival league, the controversial seven-year reign of convicted criminal Nurdin Halid was brought to an end in July, under the threat of FIFA sanctions and fierce opposition at governmental level.

Political chicanery and inept management had lain at the heart of Nurdin's controversial reign and, as he and his supporters raged against the seemingly inevitable end of their time in charge, so the atmosphere had turned increasingly confrontational as the battle for Indonesian football turned ever more bitter.

New president...Djohar

After several postponements, the much-delayed election for the head of the Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI) took place in early July in the ancient city of Solo, the federation's birthplace back in 1930.

With Nurdin among a handful of possible entrants banned from standing by FIFA, 18 candidates put themselves forward to replace a man who had served two years of his reign in prison for corruption.

In the end, former player and referee Djohar Arifin Husin was named as the new head of the organisation, after ex-army chief General George Toisutta and oil tycoon Arifin Panigoro, who were both supported by high-profile reformers, were also barred from standing.

"Revamping the organisation is my top priority," said Djohar, who defeated Agusman Effendi in a run-off to secure the post. "I think I will assemble a team that will be lean but will take a professional approach to their jobs.

"The most important thing is to push our agenda – which is to improve the organisation."

Dhojar's election averted the threat of a ban from all international competitions by FIFA and allowed the national team to participate in the third phase of Asia's qualifying tournament for the 2014 World Cup.

However, the new administration wasted little time in making its presence felt and one of its first moves was the ousting of national coach Alfred Riedl – who had been appointed by the Nurdin regime – 10 months before the end of his existing deal.

> A rebel league ran parallel to the Indonesian Super League, further confusing a complex picture

The Austrian had led the national side to the Final of the AFF Cup in December last year, where they lost to Malaysia over two legs, but he was stood down after newly installed officials claimed they were unable to find a copy of his contract in the federation's files.

In his place, Holland's Wim Rijsbergen - who had previously worked as head coach of Trinidad & Tobago and who had joined Indonesian club PSM Makassar earlier in the year – took charge, with Riedl threatening to take his case to FIFA for arbitration.

Issues arose, too, over the state of the domestic game, which had also been beset by controversy during the battle between pro- and anti-Nurdin forces earlier in the year. Since the start of the year, a rebel league funded by Panigoro – the Liga Primer Indonesia - had run parallel to the federation-backed Indonesian Super League, further confusing an already complex picture in such a sprawling country.

In an attempt to move forward, the PSSI initially decided to take a step into the nation's footballing past and resurrect a format that had been consigned to the history books in 2008, when a dual-division format was streamlined into an 18-team league.

To satisfy the clubs who had previously participated in the Super League and the Liga Primer – both of which have been scrapped – a two-division format was proposed, whereby the top flight would be split into western and eastern conferences, with the champions determined via a play-off system.

But that format was soon scrapped and the newly created Indonesian Premier League was due to feature 24 teams playing in a round-robin system, thereby adhering to regulations drawn up by the Asian Football Confederation.

However, budgeting issues and disagreements over player registration caused dissent amongst the clubs and, with an AFC deadline for the commencement of the league looming, only one game – a 1-1 draw between Persib Bandung and Semen Padang - was played on the league's opening weekend in October as 14 clubs threatened to boycott the competition.

While a new regime may be in place at the PSSI in Jakarta, the complexities of Indonesian football remain a long way from being resolved. The debates and disputes are sure to run for some time to come. WS

STEVE MENARY

The sovereign city state's hallowed turf

Interest in football continues to grow within the Vatican

With Pope Benedict XVI an ardent Bayern Munich fan and the Vatican criticising the playing of Serie A matches in Italy across a Sunday to generate more income from pay-per-view, football in the Holy See is attracting more interest than ever.

FIFA has prioritised the handful of independent states still outside the world body for membership and the Vatican City fits the criteria of United Nations recognition. But, while one in four of its residents regularly plays football, the national team remains one of European football's anomalies.

"It would be impossible to join FIFA because most of the players in our teams are Italians and not Vatican citizens," says Sergio Valci, head of the Vatican City's football association.

Valci's career as an amateur defender was ended by a scooter accident four decades ago. Half a game into his comeback at 24, he knew that he would never play again, but his passion for the game remained undimmed and he set about forming a competition for the Vatican's residents.

Dome advantage...Vatican City's Lorenzo Pierotti (in yellow) in action against a team from oil giants Total

The first club set up in the Vatican was Hermes SS, formed in 1966 by museum staff. A league championship was first staged in 1972 with fixtures played – as they still are – on Monday nights at the Pontificio Oratorio di San Pietro leisure centre in the hills above the Vatican.

> "Often our games are very low profile, against teams of pilgrims"
> **Sergio Valci, Vatican City FA**

A cup competition, the Coppa Vaticano, began in 1985 and is traditionally played after the league, which kicks off in February. However, this season has seen a change, with Valci explaining: "We started in October as more people were available."

The number of teams in the two competitions varies. Governatorato, an internal affairs side who were the inaugural league champions, no longer exist but Hermes are still going strong. The current league champions are Dirseco, who are drawn from shop staff, with Telefoni SCV winning the most recent Coppa Vaticano. Eight sides entered the 2011 Coppa Vaticano, including Guardia FC, who are drawn from the Swiss Guards who protect the Vatican. Other clubs include postal side Dirtel and a police side Gendarmeria.

The 2010 Vatican player of the year was Alessandro Quarto, a left-sided forward for Dirseco who scored the Vatican's only goal in a 2-1 defeat by Monaco's national team in May. The internet details many Vatican games – including a match with San Marino that never took place according to Giancarlo Taraglio, secretary of the Vatican's football association – and the representative team remains active.

"We always play two or three games a year," says Valci. "Often they were very low profile against teams of pilgrims so people do not notice."

Earlier this year the Vatican played in a three-way tournament with French and Italian sides from oil giant Total, and also drew 2-2 with a veterans' team from Bundesliga side St Pauli, while last year the Vatican beat a team of Czech ministerial staff 9-1 in Rome and Valci wants a rematch in the Czech Republic.

But although playing an away game would break new ground, that is likely to be the only expansion on the horizon for Vatican football. **WS**

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Also known as the Holy See, the Vatican is an independent state within Italy established in 1923.

Population 832
Size 0.2 sq miles
Capital The Vatican
Language Italian
Religion Roman Catholic

SAM BECKWITH in Prague

Back from the dead

Eleven years after disappearing from the map, Dukla Prague are back in the Czech top flight

For a club founded in 1948, Dukla Prague have an awful lot of baggage. Established shortly after Czechoslovakia's Communist coup, the army team became a slightly sinister symbol of football behind the Iron Curtain – not just to fans in the West but also to Czech supporters.

Despite success at home and in Europe, "Dukla never had a decent amount of true fans" says Radovan Jelinek, co-author of *The Atlas of Czech Football*, and even in championship-winning seasons they usually had the league's lowest average attendance. According to Jelinek, this was partly because Dukla were linked with the Communist regime and partly out of resentment at the way the army side were parachuted into the top division and given access to other clubs' players.

Cut adrift by the army after 1989's "Velvet Revolution", this largely unloved club struggled in the 1990s and few tears were shed when the Dukla name eventually disappeared from Czech football altogether at the end of the millennium. Now, however, Dukla Prague – or, to be more precise, a team called Dukla Prague – are back in the top flight, tapping into nostalgia for an era when Czech clubs competed with Europe's best.

The club's current coach, 40-year-old Lubos Kozel, has fond childhood memories of Dukla's past European campaigns but he is keen to distance the club from its Communist past, saying: "Those fans that associate the club with the old regime are definitely not welcome here."

Instead, Kozel focuses on Dukla's impressive footballing heritage. With the old regime's backing, the original Dukla – who were named after a Second World War battle that took place on the border of present-day eastern Slovakia – were able to cherry-pick the best Czechoslovak talent for national service, and the policy began reaping rewards in the early 1950s, with Dukla winning the Czechoslovak Cup for the first of nine times in 1952 and claiming the first of 11 league titles the following season. But it was in the early 1960s that they really hit their stride, winning the league five times in six seasons, reaching the European Cup quarter-finals in three consecutive seasons and winning the International Soccer League tournament in New York in 1961.

That Dukla side also contributed seven players to the Czechoslovakia squad that reached the 1962 World Cup Final, among them Josef Masopust, who that year became the first Czech player to be named European Footballer of the Year. (The second, Pavel Nedved, played for Dukla as a youngster.)

Dukla's greatest achievement came in 1967 when the club reached the semi-finals of the European Cup, losing to the eventual winners Celtic, but despite remaining a force in the domestic game throughout the 1970s and 1980s, and reaching the semi-finals of the Cup-winners Cup in 1986, the club never managed to reach those lofty heights again.

> "Fans that associate the club with the old regime are not welcome here"
> **Dukla Prague coach Lubos Kozel**

With a lack of fans and sponsorship money after the fall of Communism, Dukla fell on hard times. In 1994 they were relegated after winning just one game all season and, heavily in debt, they dropped straight into Czech football's semi-professional third tier.

Two years later Slovak businessman Bohumir Duricko attempted to revive the club's fortunes, merging Dukla with

Return...Jan Vorel (right) beats Liberec's Jan Nezmar as Dukla come from behind to win 2-1 in October

On the up...Dukla celebrate promotion at Juliska Stadium last season

Pribram, a second-division side from a town almost 40 miles south-west of Prague. Initially, the new club played at Dukla's Juliska Stadium, but Duricko, frustrated by the small crowds in Prague, moved the club to Pribram in 1997.

Initially called FC Dukla, then Dukla Pribram, the club dropped its famous name altogether in 2000 and is now known as 1FK Pribram.

Back in Prague, however, Dukla hadn't disappeared altogether. Eight of the merged-club's youth teams remained in Prague, playing under the Dukla Prague name. These broke away from the Pribram-based club in 1998 to form an independent club, while, separately, an amateur side called Dukla Dejvice were playing at Juliska in the army team's yellow-and-red colours.

These two clubs joined forces in 2001, re-launching Dukla Prague as a senior side and taking Dukla Dejvice's place in the fifth tier of Czech football. Then, in the autumn of 2007, Dukla Prague merged again, this time gaining Jakubcovice's place in the country's fully professional second division.

In 2008, two sports marketing companies – Albresa SA and Full Moon – each bought a share of the club and the new money allowed Dukla to invest in players as the push for promotion to the top flight began in earnest.

Kozel replaced former Dukla and Czechoslovakia forward Gunter Bittengel as coach in 2009, with Bittengel moving into the sporting director's role, and – surprisingly for someone who was a tough defender as a player – he adopted an attack-minded approach that saw Dukla score 55 goals in 30 games on the way to promotion last season.

The current squad are a far cry from the star-studded Dukla sides of the 1960s and 1970s, but Kozel's team have been holding their own in the top flight so far, despite average gates of around 2,500. Thirty-six-year-old midfielder Patrik Gedeon, who played with Kozel at Slavia Prague, is the key man at Juliska these days, while the club's youth system provides a steady stream of new talent. However, a return to Dukla's glory years remains far from anyone's thoughts.

"Currently, the ambition is for Dukla to survive the first division and to develop new players for the Czech league and leagues abroad," says Kozel.

"We definitely aren't thinking about playing in Europe at the moment." WS

OTHER CLUBS THAT ROSE FROM THE ASHES

Accrington Stanley

Aldershot Town

Newport County

Fiorentina

Napoli

Perugia

Servette

Lausanne

Grenoble

Lokomotiv Leipzig

Dukla Prague are not the only famous name from the past to have been revived.

In England, the original **Accrington Stanley** resigned from the Football League in 1962 but re-formed in 1968 and were promoted back to the league in 2006, while Aldershot were dissolved in 1992 because of debts and quit the Football League, prompting fans to form **Aldershot Town**, who began life five tiers below the Football League and won promotion from the Conference in 2008.

Newport County, Welsh Cup winners in 1980 and quarter-finalists in the following season's European Cup-winners Cup, went out of business in February 1989 but re-formed and have worked their way up the English pyramid to the Conference National.

Fiorentina went bankrupt in June 2002 and were refused a place in Italy's Serie B for the following season. Instead, they were admitted into Serie C2, the country's fourth tier, and subsequently won promotion back to Serie A over the course of four seasons. **Napoli** also went bankrupt, in 2004, and were bought by businessman Aurelio de Laurentiis, who re-formed the club which were allowed to remain in Serie C. Former Serie A side **Perugia** are currently playing in Serie C2 after suffering bankruptcy in 2010 and being forced to restart in Serie D.

Servette won promotion back to the Swiss top flight earlier this year after going bankrupt in 2005 and being forced to start again with an under-21 side in the third tier. **Lausanne-Sport** also won promotion back to the Swiss Super League this summer after bankruptcy in 2003 forced them to restart in the regional fourth tier.

Grenoble, who played in the French top flight during the 2008-09 season, have dropped down to the fifth tier after bankruptcy earlier this year.

Lokomotiv Leipzig, European Cup-winners Cup runners-up in 1987, went bankrupt in 2004 but were re-formed by supporters and are currently playing in the fifth tier of German football.

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PLAYER Biography

Franck Ribery

He may often get itchy feet and have some personal baggage, but the wandering Frenchman remains a class act. By Nick Bidwell

What to do for my next trick? Sprinkle pepper in a fellow diner's fruit juice? Throw a bucket of water over an unsuspecting victim? Cut the ends off the socks of a team-mate? Or perhaps crash the team bus in a car park in Dubai?

Not surprisingly for someone born on April Fool's Day, Bayern Munich and France wide-man Franck Ribery has spent his whole career concocting dressing-room pranks. The trouble is, fans in his homeland who once loved his spontaneity and everyman qualities no longer get the joke and they were turned stony-faced by his penchant for negative headlines last year.

Popularity can easily be lost, and Ribery mislaid his not once but twice in 2010: first giving the media a field day by indulging in a liaison with an underage prostitute, and then by playing a significant part in the "House of Horrors" that was *Les Bleus*' World Cup campaign in South Africa.

Expected to be one of his side's surest sources of creativity and leadership at those finals, Ribery failed on both counts, his only contribution being a nasty campaign of harassment conducted against the team's so-called golden boy, Yoann Gourcuff, and a readiness to sign up for the "Mutiny of Knysna" on the day the France squad refused to train.

The tournament should have been a showcase for his unique skills: his impish

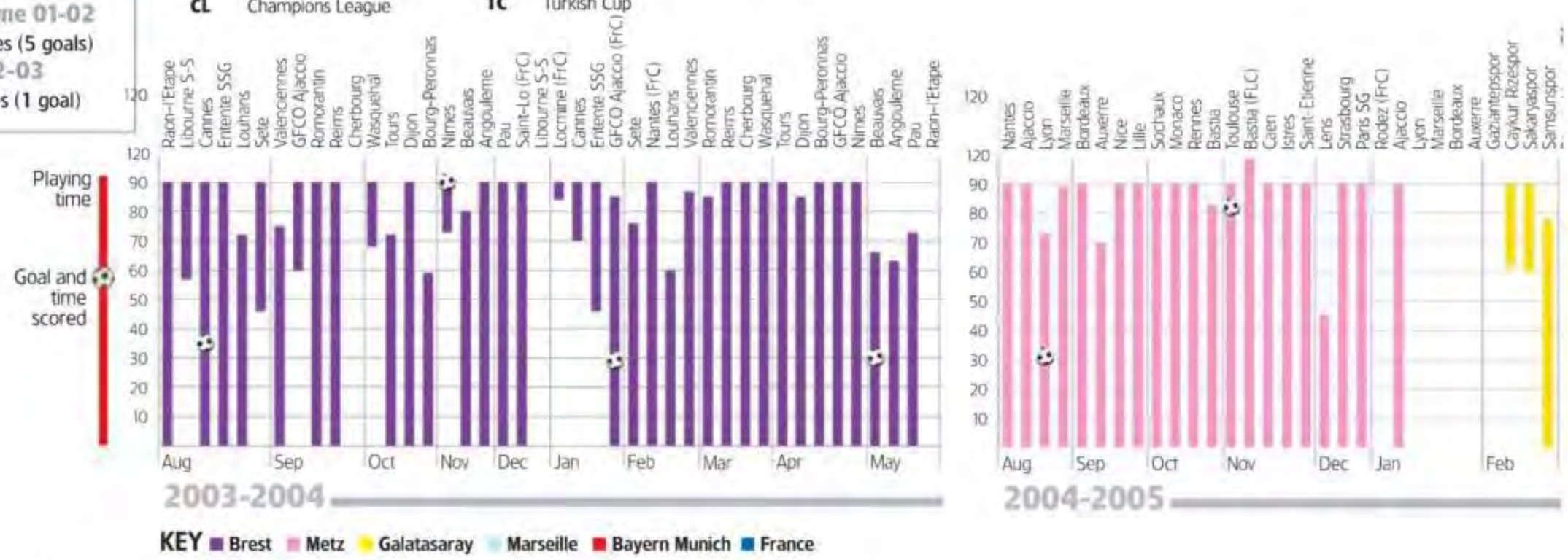
Star of the show...despite his chequered past, Bayern still warm to Ribery's skills

TIMELINE: EVERY MATCH, EVERY MINUTE, EVERY GOAL

RECORD BEFORE 2003-04 SEASON

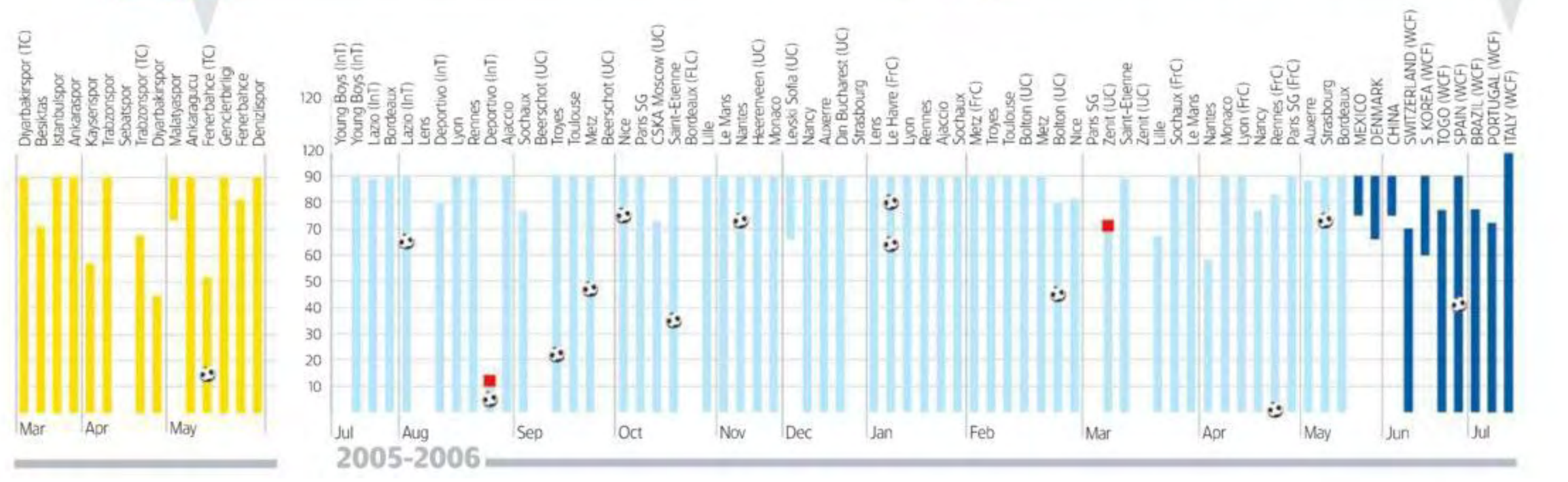
- **Boulogne 00-01** 4 games (1 goal)
- **Boulogne 01-02** 25 games (5 goals)
- **Ales 02-03** 19 games (1 goal)

WC World Cup qualifier
WCF World Cup Finals
EC Euro Championship qualifier
ECF Euro Championship finals
CL Champions League
UC UEFA Cup/Europa League
InT InterToto Cup
FLC French League Cup
FrC French Cup
TC Turkish Cup
GLC German League Cup
GC German Cup
GSC German Super Cup



May 11, 2005 – lifts the Turkish Cup after opening the scoring for Galatasaray in their 5-1 victory over Fenerbahce in the Final.

Jul 9, 2006 – unable to stop Marco Materazzi's equaliser, Italy went on to win the World Cup on penalties after the Final finished 1-1.



FACT FILE

Franck Ribery

Nationality
French

Age
28 (07.04.83)

Place of birth
Boulogne-sur-Mer, France

Height
5ft 7in (1.70 m)

Position
Midfielder

Teams
Boulogne 2000-2002 (29 games/6 goals)
Ales 2002-2003 (19 games/1 goal)
Brest 2003-2004 (39 games/4 goals)
Metz 2004-2005 (21 games/2 goals)
Galatasaray 2005 (17 games/1 goal)
Marseille 2005-2007 (89 games/18 goals)
Bayern Munich 2007-present (160 games/56 goals)*
France 2006-present (54 games/7 goals)*

Honours
Galatasaray Turkish Cup 2005
Bayern Munich Bundesliga 2008, 2010; German Cup 2008, 2010; German League Cup 2007

** up to and including 29.10.11*

dribbling, those blistering bursts of acceleration and an instinct for risk-taking. Instead, he thought it fit to take on the role of egocentric diva, even going so far as to invite himself on to the set of a live TV football programme to say his piece.

As France coach Raymond Domenech, who was the show's supposed interviewee, looked on with bemusement, Ribery denied he had fought with Gourcuff, revealed his inner torment at the side's poor results and promised to do everything in his power to help his side win their last opening-round game against South Africa. It was not a good idea. Certain team-mates thought he only made the small-screen intervention to save his own skin, while the media deemed him insincere. Later that day his words went up in smoke as the squad reacted to Nicolas Anelka's sacking by going on strike.

"Some people told Ribery he was the brains of the team and he came to believe it," scoffed legendary France striker Juste Fontaine.

How public perceptions can change from one World Cup to the next. Four years previously, Ribery was everyone's favourite cheeky chappie, the rookie who could not believe his luck to be training with the likes of Zinedine Zidane and Thierry Henry. Fast forward and the only image is that of the scapegoat.

Ribery received a three-match ban from the national team for his part in the South Africa affair and, although Domenech's successor Laurent Blanc was quick to bring him back into the fold, there remain many fans, journalists and

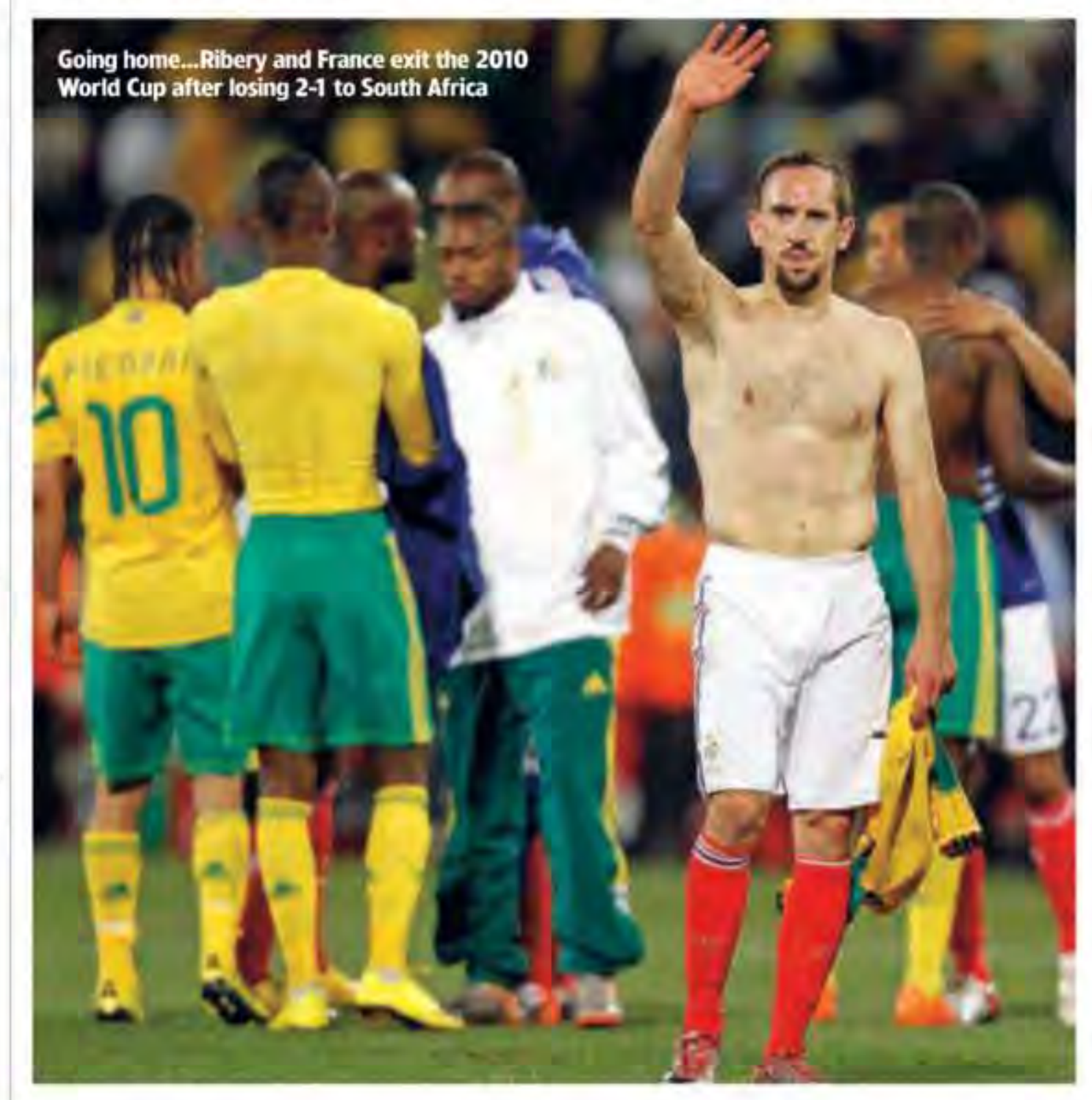
Blanc brought him back but some felt he should have been cut for good

ex-pro pundits who believe he should have been cut for good. Only by keeping his head down and consistently hitting the heights at Euro 2012 can he hope to restore the nationwide appeal he used to enjoy.

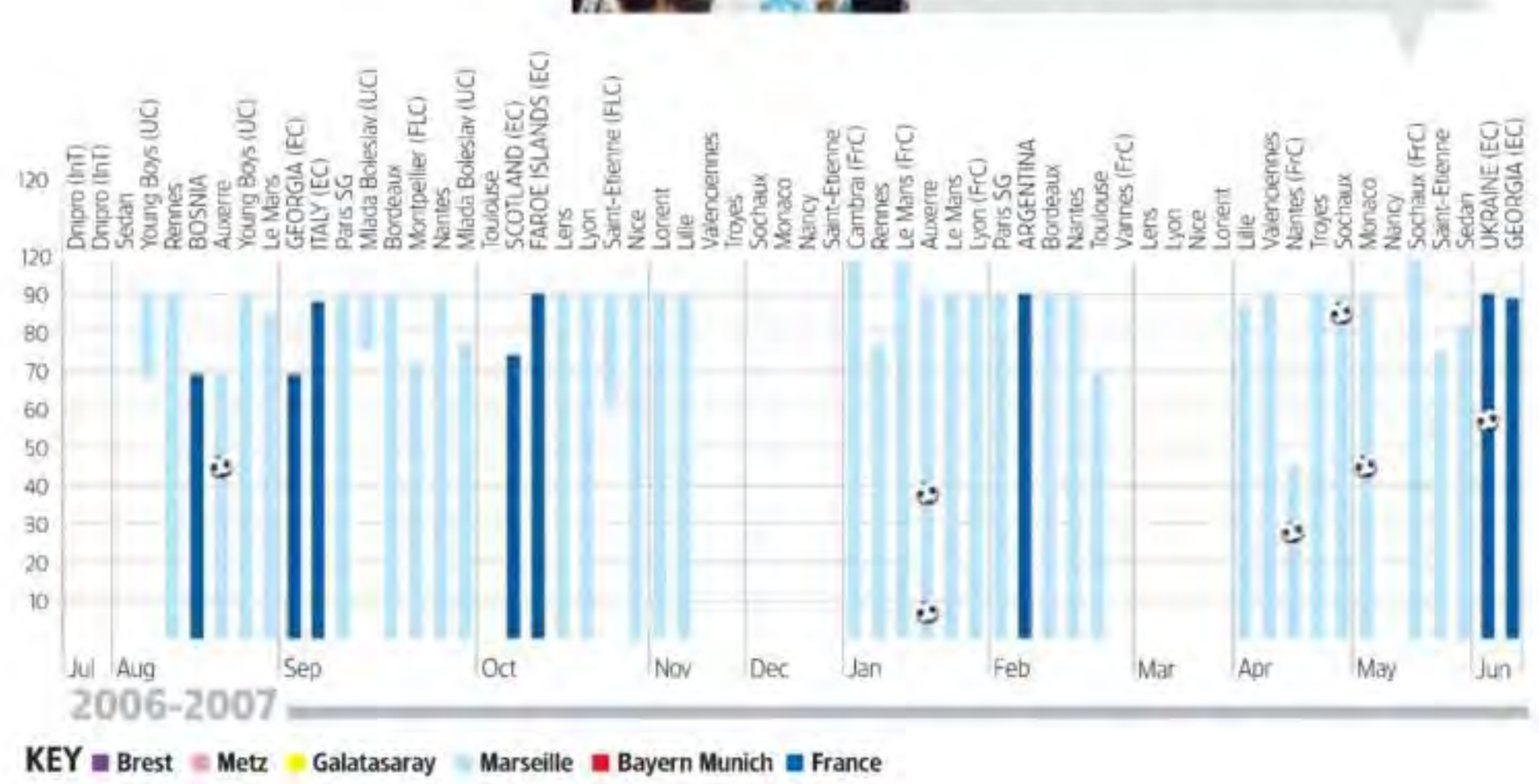
Controversy, particularly surrounding transfers, has always been the mountain range on the Ribery landscape.

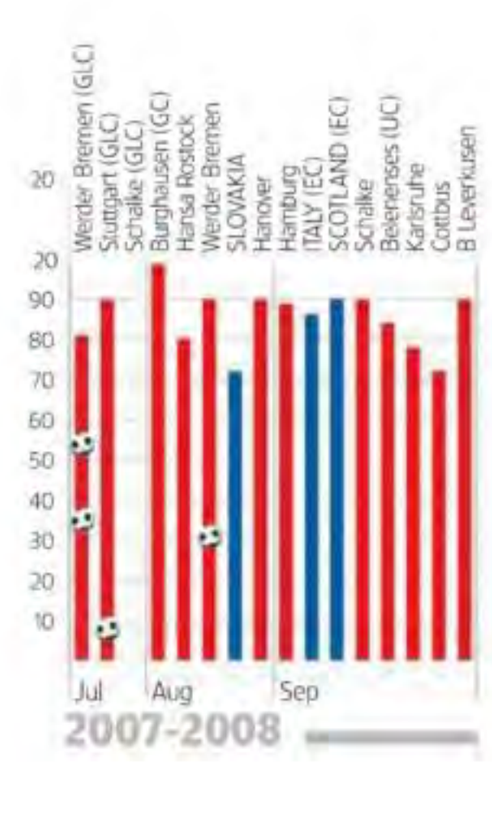
He spent just half a season at his first Ligue 1 club, Metz, before cutting out in January 2005 to join Turkish heavyweights Galatasaray. He then left the Istanbul side after six months – at zero cost to Marseille, his next club – when Gala were adjudged to have fallen behind with his salary payments. Most recently, two years ago, he tried to force Bayern Munich to sell him to Real Madrid in a tempestuous clash of wills.

He should, however, have known better, as Bayern don't do player ultimatums, but it was not the first time a club of Ribery's had put paid to his hopes of a move. An excellent first season at Marseille, followed by an 11th-hour call-up to France's 2006 World Cup squad and a string of outstanding performances as the team finished runners-up in Germany, put Ribery top


Going home...Ribery and France exit the 2010 World Cup after losing 2-1 to South Africa

May 12, 2007 – dejected after yet another Final loss on penalties, this time to Sochaux in the French Cup.





KEY Brest · Metz · Galatasaray · Marseille · Bayern Munich · France

of the shopping list of Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas and he promptly went on TV to demand a transfer. But Marseille owner Robert Louis-Dreyfus would have none of it, and in August 2006 he made a surprise visit to the OM hotel on the day of a UEFA Cup tie with Young Boys of Berne.

Ribery, who was most unwilling to turn out that night for fear of being cup-tied, seemed determined to play hardball, only for Louis-Dreyfus to inform him in no uncertain terms that he was going nowhere, but sugaring the pill with the revelation that Bayern Munich, Real Madrid and Liverpool had all made offers for him and were prepared to let Ribery stay at OM for another year. He acquiesced, took part in the game and joined Bayern 12 months later in a £25million deal.

Flying start...Ribery, then with Metz, takes on Monaco's Patrice Evra. Both went on to bigger things

Cap this...Ribery models some unusual headgear during a Bayern photo shoot and, right, with his wife, Wahiba, after last season's German Cup Final win over Werder Bremen

Getting into the spirit...Ribery in typical Bavarian attire at Munich's Oktoberfest

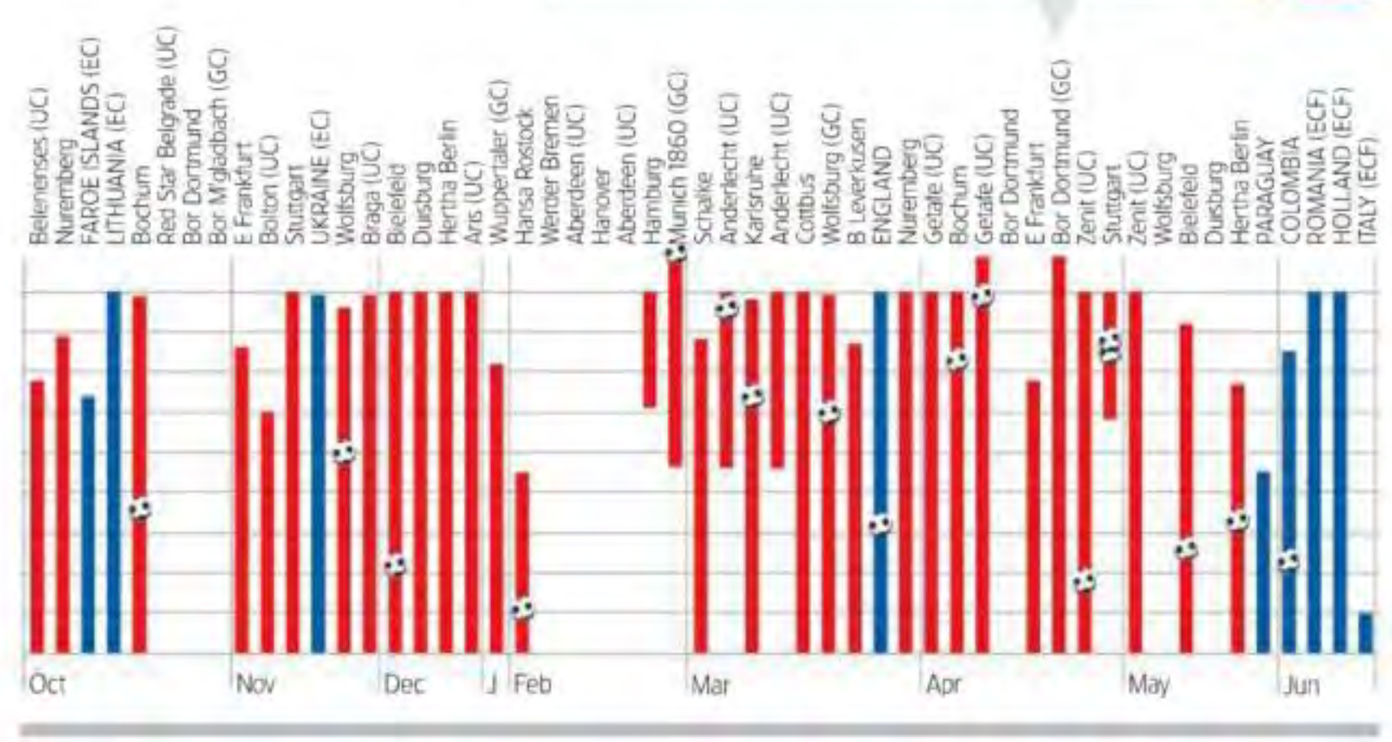
Overcoming adversity

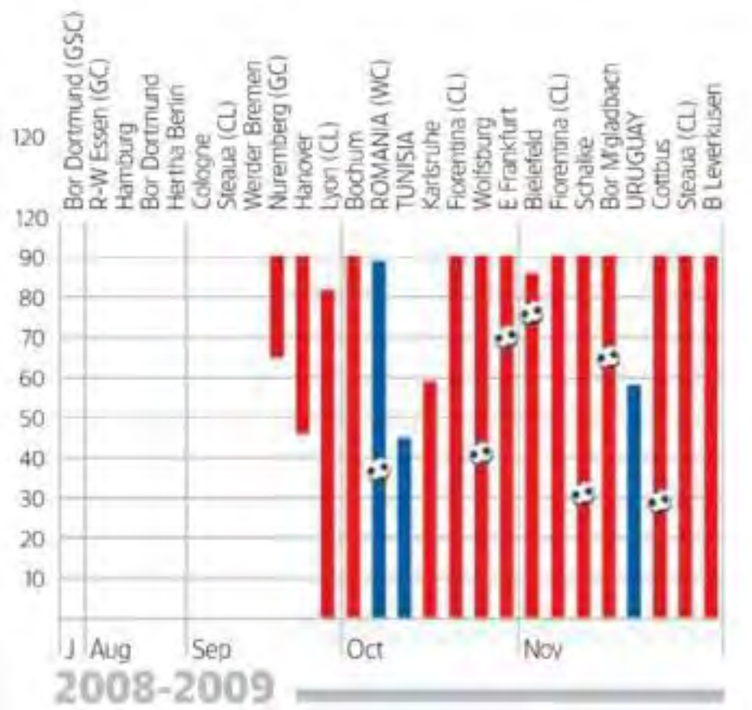
Besides his talent, what makes the Ribery story so compelling is that he has overcome so much adversity to make it to the top. In his early days, the kid from the backstreets of the northern French port of Boulogne suffered setback upon setback and he nearly lost his life at the age of just two when thrown through the windscreen of his father's car during a road accident. The scars of that brush with death remain on his face to this day.

There was certainly nothing preordained about Ribery's development into a world-class player. Although good enough to be inducted into the Lille youth ranks as a schoolboy, at the age of 16 he was kicked out for poor academic results and numerous cases of bad behaviour - academy director Jean-Michel Vandamme talks of handing him "200 warnings and 300 reprimands" - and he had to trudge back to Boulogne, subsequently becoming a starter at his home-town club, then in the third tier of the national pyramid.

While he was glad to be playing regularly, albeit at a low level, the wages on offer at Boulogne were derisory to say the least (£130 a month) and after trying and failing to persuade the club directors to give him an increase, he bid them *au revoir*, signing in June 2002 for fellow third-division club Ales, an old mining town in the south of the country. To demonstrate his desire to join Ales, he took part in a game straight after driving through the night to get there, but his good will would not be reciprocated. The club had dozens of creditors in close

Apr 19, 2008 – helps Bayern to collect the German Cup, beating Borussia Dortmund 2-1 after extra time in the Final.





attendance and, with monthly pay cheques as rare as summer snow, the cash-strapped Ribery did not even have enough to cover his rent and soon quit.

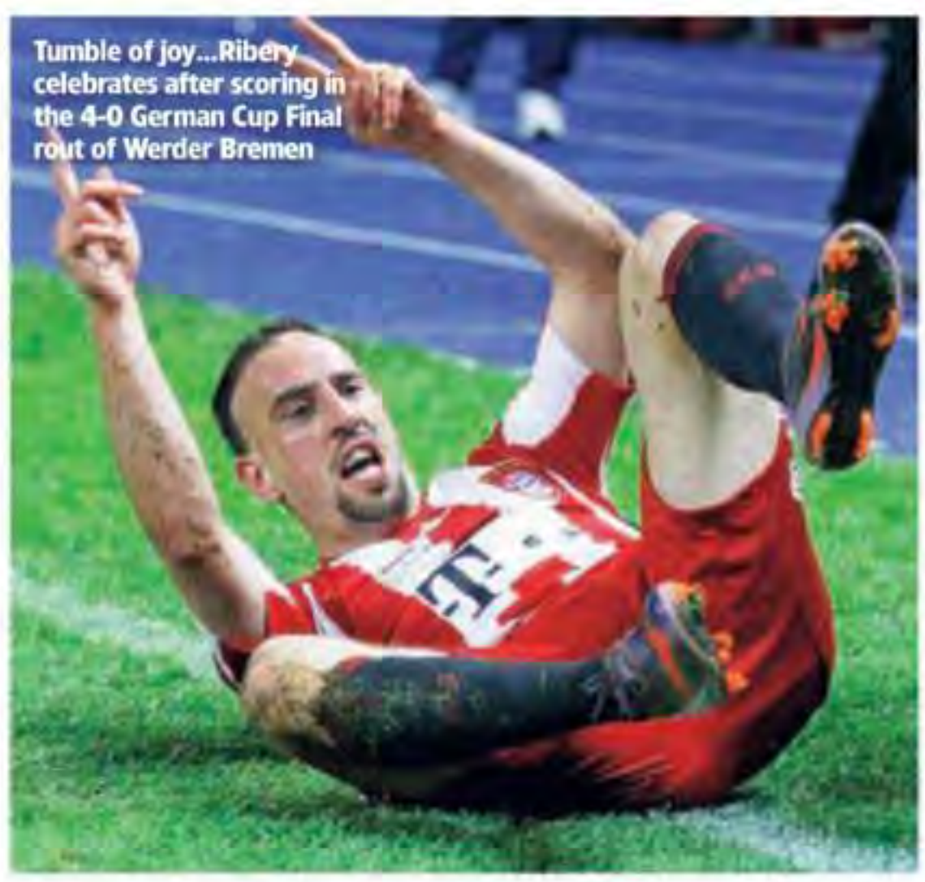
Disillusioned with football, he once again retraced his steps to Boulogne and for several weeks earned a living as a bricklayer alongside his father. Trials with Amiens, Caen and Guingamp came to nothing but, just when he was beginning to think he would forever be putting down terrace floors, third division Brest arrived on the scene to offer him a contract. It was a watershed moment. In brilliant form for the Breton side throughout the 2003-04 season, Ribery was at long last making career headway, not only pursued by a plethora of top-flight French sides such as Nantes, Saint-Etienne, Lens and Strasbourg, but also sparking interest from Ajax, whose scouts were said to be in raptures over his ability.

However, in 2004, Metz cemented their place at the head of the queue when coach Jean Fernandez took Ribery and his agent on a tour of the club's stadium and training centre. Fernandez had a soft spot for Ribery and, after bringing the youngster on board and hearing that he had never had a summer holiday in his life, the Metz boss immediately dug into his own pocket to send the new boy on vacation to Tunisia.

Ribery was an instant sensation. Not since Robert Pires had Metz had such a gifted ball-player in their midst and it was entirely logical when the newcomer earned himself a place in the France under-21 side. Sadly for the Lorraine club, his days there were numbered, and in January 2005 he put pen to paper on a two-and-a-half-year deal with Galatasaray. Conspiracy theories abound as to why his sojourn at Metz was cut short. Some have suggested that his decision to move to Turkey was prompted by a recent conversion to Islam (his wife, Wahiba, is a France-born Muslim), while others believe he was turned off Metz after being involved in a nightclub brawl.

The switch to Galatasaray would follow a now familiar pattern: plenty

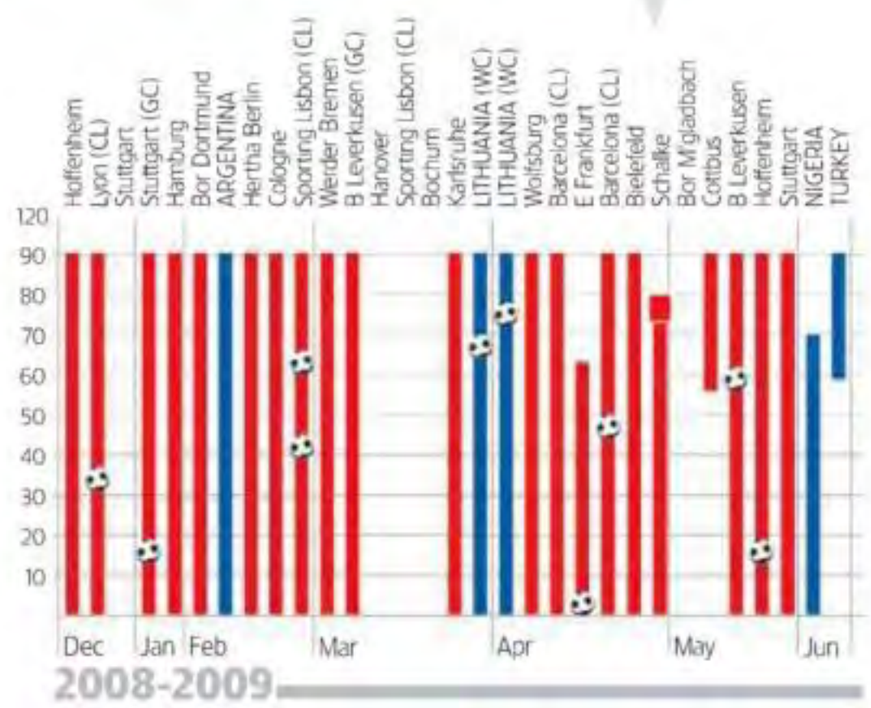
Going all out...Ribery, challenging Bordeaux's David Jemmali in a Ligue 1 game, became a cult hero with Marseille fans



Tumble of joy...Ribery celebrates after scoring in the 4-0 German Cup Final rout of Werder Bremen

Apr 25, 2009 – Ribery is sent-off after receiving a second yellow card during a 1-0 defeat against Schalke.

Apr 21, 2010 – a straight red against Lyon meant Ribery missed the Champions League Final.



KEY Brest Metz Galatasaray Marseille Bayern Munich France

Scars run deep...Ribery's face bears testament to his horrific car accident at the age of two

of characteristically exciting play, supporters falling in love with the midfielder they christened "Ferraribery", then a messy exit, this time to Marseille. Ribery - and his then-agent Bruno Heiderscheid - claimed he was free to do as he chose since Galatasaray had failed to meet their salary commitments. The Istanbul club denied the charge and demanded a €10m fee from OM. Both parties would appeal to FIFA, with the judgement eventually going in favour of the French camp.

Extraordinary skills

Marseille's passionate supporters were always going to worship at the Ribery altar. Nothing sets their pulses racing more than extraordinary skills, audacity and wholeheartedness, and in the urchin-like midfielder - scars and all - they very much had a hero after their own hearts. But two years in one place is an eternity for this footballing rolling stone and by June 2007 he was ready to take off again: destination Bayern. Just as he had exploded on the scene at Metz, Galatasaray and Marseille, so Ribery would waste no time in lighting up the Bundesliga with his one-man show. For all Germany's reputation for take-no-prisoner marking, opposition defenders simply had to get used to watching him run free on the left flank. A key element in Bayern's domestic double in 2007-08, the Frenchman was deservedly voted the country's Player of the Year. No new recruit to the Bundesliga has made such a mind-blowing initial impact and "Riberymania" swept the nation. With millions of appreciative fans, and blanket coverage in the press and TV, images of the Frenchman were on billboards everywhere.

> In the urchin-like midfielder, scars and all, the passionate Marseille fans had a hero after their own hearts

His star may have waned somewhat since then – the spell broken by an unfortunate series of injuries, extra-curricular activities and the World Cup 2010 fiasco – but Bayern and Blanc still totally believe in him, and, if he can stay fully fit and out of trouble, this most mercurial of performers will undoubtedly bounce back.

Ribery battered and bruised? Probably. About to bow out? Not even close. **WS**

Champions...Ribery shows the Bundesliga trophy to Bayern Munich supporters

Sep 21, 2010 – an ankle injury suffered against Hoffenheim would keep Ribery out of action for almost two months.

Sep 6, 2011 – Ribery was recalled to the national team and helped France to qualify for the Euro 2012 finals.

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The genius of *El Loco*

Jonathan Wilson explains how Marcelo Bielsa has got things right at Athletic Bilbao

Marcelo Bielsa might be known as "*El Loco*" but he is far from stupid, and his decision to turn down Internazionale in the summer was rooted in the most worldly of considerations.

And as Gian Piero Gasperini's ill-fated five games in the San Siro hot seat demonstrated, the grandees of the game simply don't have time for radicalism – particularly with Inter's ageing, slow squad simply unsuited to the sort of hard-pressing game favoured by both Bielsa and Gasperini.

Instead of Italy, Bielsa went to Spain, where he joined Athletic Bilbao, a club almost as idiosyncratic as he is.

They had finished sixth and reached the Final of the Spanish Cup last season under Joaquin Caparros, whose legacy is tainted by suggestions that he was little more than a long-ball merchant. Successful he may have been, but there was little outcry when Josu Urrutia won the club presidential election in the summer and didn't renew Caparros' contract. It may, in fact, have been Caparros' style of football that was one of the reasons Urrutia won the election.

In some ways, Caparros fitted with Athletic's tradition. As an exhibition in the museum at San Mames stadium makes clear, Athletic is a very British club. It was founded by English shipyard workers and its style was instilled by Wolverhampton-born Fred Pentland, a stern, moustached figure who bade farewell to his bowler hat shortly before the end of each of his five Spanish Cup successes, knowing full well that his players would jump on it in triumph.

Pentland was regarded as a radical coach who favoured a short-passing game (although what was short in the 1920s would probably look pretty direct to modern eyes), but he still liked his centre-forwards big and robust, and his centre-backs more so. The likes of Fernando Llorente and Fernando Amorebieta are the modern incarnations of that tradition.

It's a difficult line for coaches at Athletic to tread: they must be direct enough to reflect the traditions of the club but not so direct as to be accused of being long ball. In that regard, Bielsa may be the perfect compromise. He is far from a long-ball coach, but he does prefer "vertical football". He is an idealist; not in an aesthetic sense, but from the point of view of having a clear conception of the sort of football he believes works, with his opinions honed from a library of tens of thousands of videos and careful statistical analysis, all charted in multi-coloured diagrams and spreadsheets.

> Bielsa may be the perfect compromise for Athletic. He is far from a long-ball coach but he does prefer "vertical football"

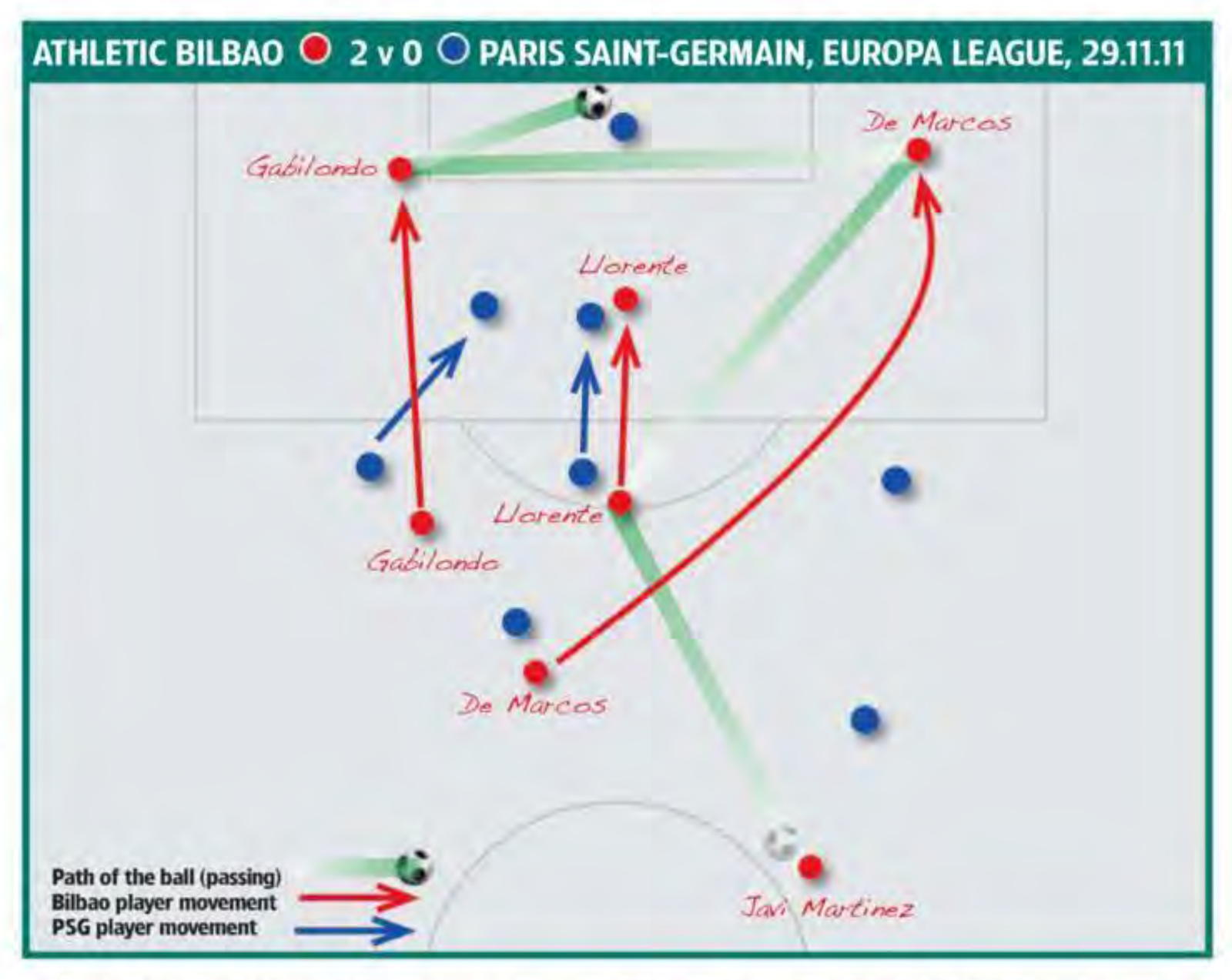
Bielsa wants the ball to be won high up the pitch and so advocates intense pressing; speaking, as Arrigo Sacchi did, of there being an ideal 25 metres between centre-forward and centre-

ATHLETIC BILBAO, AWAY v MALAGA LOST 1-0, LA LIGA, 21.09.11

ATHLETIC BILBAO, AWAY v REAL SOCIEDAD, WON 2-1, LA LIGA, 02.10.11

Europa clash...Athletic Bilbao's Llorente (right) and Nene of Paris Saint-Germain

Radical changes...Bielsa



back. He recognises the importance of the rapid movement of the ball from front to back to catch opponents off balance, but he also sees the value in retaining possession, which is what differentiates him from, say, Egil Olsen, a coach who always prioritises position on the field over possession.

Inevitably, though, it took Bielsa time to settle in Bilbao. He made radical changes, offloading nine players, and training became far more conceptual, with moves worked through in detail without opponents. While Caparros' sessions were focused on 11-a-side matches, Bielsa has played just one full practice game since taking over.

But there have been encouraging signs that Bielsa's methods are paying off and that he has begun to adapt to his new surroundings.

His early experiments with the 3-3-1-3 that he had used with Chile have been replaced by a back four, usually but not exclusively, in a 4-2-3-1 shape. He has limited his habit of playing a midfielder in defence and started to pick the left-back Jon Aurtenetxe. There is also a clear effort being made to utilise the wings, and the occasional long, diagonal ball is used to make the most of Llorente's aerial ability. Llorente himself has been magnificent this season, leading the pressing with such energy and focus that at one point in the Europa League game against Paris Saint-Germain he closed down a free-kick before it had been taken.

There is evidence, too, of the pre-planned moves starting to work. Against PSG, Athletic responded to a packed defence by plying low, hard balls forward, with a player dummying and carrying on his run, looking to receive a lay-off. It was from precisely this route that the opening goal came. Javi Martinez hit forward a pass of perhaps 30 yards; Oscar De Marcos dummied, pivoted and kept sprinting; Llorente helped the ball on and De Marcos crossed to the far post where left-winger Igor Gabilondo hooked a volley into the top corner – a wonderful strike to end a wonderful move. Three passes had sliced open a defence that had six men behind the ball.

After five league games without a win at the start of the season, victory over Real Sociedad in San Sebastian, a draw in Valencia and a 3-0 dismantling of Atletico Madrid at San Mames suggested just what a force Athletic could be. They are also through to the knockout stage of the Europa League. And yet, at most clubs, Bielsa would have been under severe pressure after those first five games, while at Inter he would probably have been sacked.

> Gabilondo's volley was a wonderful strike to end a wonderful move. Three passes had sliced open a defence that had six men behind the ball

Grounded...Bilbao's Fernando Amorebieta floors Roberto Soldado of Valencia

That speaks of a wider flaw in modern football: the fact mavericks like Bielsa only get their chance at mid-ranking sides like Athletic. Perhaps that's always been true to an extent – after all, Brian Clough lasted just 44 days at Leeds United, the only truly big club he ever managed – but the difference now is that talent is so concentrated at such a small handful of clubs it's impossible for mid-ranking sides, even when managed by a genius, to challenge the best. Clough won a league title with Derby County and a league and two European Cups with Nottingham Forest, while Bielsa is left to battle for Europa League qualification.

Were he a generation or two older, Bielsa would have been challenging for the greatest prizes; as it is, his genius is doomed always to bubble a little below the surface. WS

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ClubFocus

JUVENTUS

Lifting the Turin cloud

Are the good times about to return at Italy's most successful club? **Paddy Agnew reports**

When Juventus beat Internazionale 2-1 at the San Siro at the end of October to go top of Serie A, many were tempted to suggest that the good times were about to start rolling once again at what is arguably Italy's most prestigious football club. Could this be the season when "*La Vecchia Signora*" (the old lady) emerges from the post-*Calciopoli* wilderness to reclaim her rightful place at the top of the tree?

Juventus are one of those clubs who generates bitter division among football fans. Like Real Madrid in Spain or Manchester United in England, this is not a team to leave people indifferent; it is either a love or hate thing. The reality about Juventus is that whenever they win a big game, millions of fans all over the world rejoice. Likewise, whenever they lose, similar numbers around the globe celebrate with equal vigour. For the record, it is estimated that Juventus have 12 million supporters worldwide.

The love/hate phenomenon is easily explained. Juventus are not only Italy's most successful club with 27 league titles to their name – although they argue that the real figure is 29 – but they are also the side that, for better or worse, have set the winning agenda in terms of style both on and off the pitch for much of the last 90 years.

Although they won their first title ➤

On the up...celebrations after October's 2-0 win at home to Milan

JUVENTUS LEAGUE POSITIONS 1930 to 2011

SERIE A: 1–20 · SERIE B: 1–5 · WW II · ✪ stripped of titles and relegated

CUP SUCCESSES

1938	Italian Cup	1985	European Cup
1942	Italian Cup	1985	Intercontinetal Cup
1959	Italian Cup	1990	Italian Cup
1960	Italian Cup	1990	UEFA Cup
1965	Italian Cup	1993	UEFA Cup
1977	UEFA Cup	1995	Italian Cup
1979	Italian Cup	1996	Champions League
1983	Italian Cup	1996	Intercontinetal Cup
1984	European Cup-winners Cup	1996	UEFA Super Cup
1984	UEFA Super Cup		

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THE PI

Advantage...the new home stadium gives the club greater support

Teamwork...coach Conte and inspirational veteran Pirlo

Super star...Pele won two Libertadores Cups

Time and again Juve have ridden out storms, coming back to prove themselves Italy's strongest club

in 1905, the club's rise really began in 1923 when it was taken over by the Agnelli family– the owners and founders of auto giant FIAT.

Since then, there have been moments when other teams – Torino in the 1940s, Milan in the 1990s, and Inter in both the 1960s and in the period between 2006 and 2010 – have clearly surpassed Juventus as the dominant force in Italian football. In more recent times, too, the club has been besmirched by its involvement in two major scandals: *Processo Juve* at the end of the century, which involved allegations of systematic doping practices, and the 2006 *Calciopoli* match-fixing scandal, which saw the team forcibly relegated to the second tier for the first time in its history.

Time and again, Juventus have ridden out such storms, coming back to prove themselves the strongest club in Italian football. The question now is are they about to do it again?

There are certainly a number of factors which would suggest such a comeback. For a start, take the Agnelli family. For years the fate of Juventus seemed to be intimately linked to that of the Agnelli family with "*L'Avvocato*" (the lawyer), Gianni Agnelli, a former FIAT president, seemingly involved in the day-to-day running of the club, even to the point of hiring and firing players – such as the great French attacking midfielder and current UEFA president Michel Platini.

At a shareholders' meeting in Turin in early October this year, the Agnelli presence made itself heard again, loud and clear. The 36-year-old Andrea Agnelli, nephew of "*L'Avvocato*" and son of Umberto Agnelli, is the current club president and, in his speech to the shareholders, he took the opportunity to announce that this would be the last season at Juve for 37-year-old club legend Alessandro Del Piero.

Many, including Del Piero himself,

THE POWER CURVE

The movers and shakers at Juventus

ANDREA AGNELLI

Club president, son of Umberto Agnelli, nephew of Gianni Agnelli. If there was ever any doubt about who calls the shots at the modern Juventus, it became very clear this summer when he was the loudest voice in the campaign to have the 2005 and 2006 titles "returned".

GIUSEPPE MAROTTA

The club's general manager and transfer market guru has to take much of the credit for what looks like an inspired summer's trading – out with Aquilani, Felipe Melo, Sissoko and Grygera, and in with Pirlo, Vucinic, Lichtsteiner, Vidal, Giaccherini and Estigarriba.

ANTONIO CONTE

The new coach, a former Juve old boy, may well prove to be the best acquisition since the Marcello Lippi days.

JOHN ELKANN

An important figure within the Agnelli family, as grandson of Gianni Agnelli, who picked him out to run the family business FIAT.

GIAMPIERO BONIPERTI

Legendary former player whose opinion carries importance as honorary president of the club.

Unstoppable...Milan's Gianluca Zambrotta brings down Milos Krasic

were taken aback by the announcement. The player, who is nothing less than a club icon for the fans, has probably known for some time that this will be his last season with the club, but he might well have preferred the announcement to be made in some other way and in some other context, such as via the club website or his own personal site.

However, Andrea Agnelli chose otherwise, sending a very clear signal to everyone that he is the boss and the family will decide what's what. With no room for sentiment, Agnelli has ensured that, if and when they are involved in the title race next spring, Juventus will not be distracted by any extended media speculation about Del Piero's possible playing future with the club.

On that same day, Andrea Agnelli also described Juventus' financial performance in the year ending June 2011 as "intolerable, the worst ever in the history of Juventus". In truth, unlike a lot of big clubs, Juventus have nearly always been very carefully, even parsimoniously, administered and have never been slow to offload big names like Christian Vieri and Zinedine Zidane to help balance the books. Agnelli said the club's current financial position was due to "the not indifferent financial sacrifice which, in a time of economic crisis, has given us our new stadium".

But he, like everyone else at the club, is confident that the new stadium will help increase turnover considerably.

Last season...Del Piero

Heading back to the top

While the new stadium and the strong presence of the Agnelli family help, it is the strength of the current Juve squad, allied to the inspirational powers of coach Antonio Conte, which suggests that the team is heading back to the top.

Conte, who has won Serie B championships with Bari and Siena in five years of coaching, was nothing if not an inspirational figure in his 13 seasons as a battling midfielder for Juventus. He might not have been the most elegant player in Serie A but he was always there when the heat was on, the man to whom Juventus and Italy team-mates turned when in difficulty.

Crucially, as a coach, he seems capable of transmitting that same sense of determination and self-belief. Equally importantly, he feels that he has "returned home" in Turin. His total commitment to the cause, his Juve pedigree and his impressive coaching track record made him the ideal Juventus coach, someone capable of following on in the awesome tradition of Giovanni Trapattoni and, above all, Marcello Lippi, the man who coached Conte for most of his playing career.

L'Avvocato...the late Gianni Agnelli

Unlike his predecessor Gigi Delneri, who rarely looked comfortable in the role of Juventus coach in a disastrous 2010-11 season which saw the club finish 7th in Serie A, Conte gives the impression that the job is little less than his birthright entitlement.

And if Conte is an obvious and fundamental new element in this year's

PROFIT AND LOSS

TURNOVER: Match day, TV, Commercial
EXPENSES: Wages & salaries, Other

Figures in €millions

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
+ €14m	- €2m	+ €12m	+ €29m	+ €29m
214	141	167	203	204
200	143	155	174	176
63	44	48	54	55
65	41	35	36	38
135	89	106	132	133
[illegible]	102	120	138	144
16	8	13	17	16

Grounds for improvement

The club's current financial position, which saw a recent meeting approve a €120million increase in company share capital, is due above all, says Andrea Agnelli, to "the not indifferent financial sacrifice which in a time of economic crisis has given us our new stadium". Agnelli, like everyone else at Juventus, is confident that the new stadium will help increase a turnover which auditors Deloitte estimated at €204m in 2010, some way behind such clubs as Real Madrid, Barcelona and Manchester United on €438.6m, €398m and €349m respectively.

Juve, the same must also be said of 32-year-old midfielder Andrea Pirlo, who joined the club on a free transfer from Milan in the summer.

After an injury-interrupted campaign last term, not everyone was convinced that Pirlo was right for Juventus. But he has proved the sceptics wrong, playing some of the best football of his career. Conte's side make full use of his ability, providing him both with defensive cover and with two talented midfield "fetchers and carriers" in the shape of Claudio Marchisio and Chile's Arturo Vidal.

Given that three players in the first choice four-man defence – namely Andrea Barzagli, Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini – are central defenders (Stephan Lichtsteiner is the fourth man, at right-back), the rearguard has an intimidating look about it. With a solid defence behind him, Pirlo has been making hay, not only combining well with another new boy in Montenegro striker Mirko Vucinic but also creating the space for midfielder Marchisio, who was the

Euro champions...victory over Ajax in 1996

side's joint-leading scorer after nine games with striker Alessandro Matri.

From goalkeeper Gigi Buffon, through defenders Barzagli and Chiellini, to Pirlo and Marchisio in midfield, and rounded off by Vucinic in attack, Juventus look to have the spine of a good team in place and are beginning to look like genuine title contenders. And there are three very important factors in Juve's favour.

Firstly, the significance of the new, full-house stadium with its hothouse atmosphere will ensure plenty of points are won at home. Secondly, the team are not involved in European competition so will have a clear fitness advantage over rivals such as Milan, Napoli and Inter. And, last but not least, the fact that they have already beaten both Milan and Inter has injected a huge dose of self-belief into the Old Lady's camp.

It seems the good times may well be about to roll again. **WS**

THE SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

1

Gianluigi BUFFON

Age 33 (28.01.78)
Italy's first choice has had his share of injury problems over the past two seasons, but he remains a vital cog in the Juventus wheel. A hugely reassuring presence, both on and off the field.

13

Alex MANNINGER (Aut)

Age 34 (04.06.77)
Capped 33 times by his country, but has slipped to third-choice with his club after a career that has taken him around Europe since he signed for Arsenal at the age of 20. Juventus are his sixth Italian side.

30

Marco STORARI

Age 34 (07.01.77)
Filled in admirably for the injured Buffon last season after joining from Milan, where he had few chances and was loaned out to Levante, Cagliari, Fiorentina and Sampdoria.

DEFENDERS

15

Andrea BARZAGLI

Age 30 (08.05.81)
World Cup-winner who was signed in January 2011 from Wolfsburg, who he joined in 2008 in a £10m deal. A solid, dependable operator who is now well established in the centre of the Juventus defence.

19

Leonardo BONUCCI

Age 24 (01.05.87)
Highly rated international centre-back who has established himself for club and country since signing from Bari in the summer of 2010.

3

Giorgio CHIELLINI

Age 27 (14.08.84)
Italy centre-back who has been deployed by Conte in his original position of left-back this season. Joined Juve in 2005 after a season with Fiorentina.

MIDFIELDERS

17

Eljero ELIA (Hol)

Age 24 (13.02.87)
Winger signed from Hamburg this summer for £8m. Has claimed in the past that he is named after the singer Al Jarreau. Lightning fast, he started out with Twente.

28

Marcelo ESTIGARRIBIA (Par)

Age 24 (21.09.87)
Lanky left-sided attacking midfielder on loan from Uruguayan side Deportivo Maldonado who has already been used a number of times from the bench.

24

Emanuele GIACCHERINI

Age 26 (05.05.85)
Has mostly been used as a winger and an impact substitute. Joined from Cesena last summer after impressing in their first season back in Serie A.

Plus: (34) Luca **MARRONE** (Age 21, 28.03.90), (5) Michele **PAZIENZA** (Age 29, 05.08.82)

FORWARDS

10

Alessandro DEL PIERO

Age 37 (09.11.74)
Iconic figure at the club over almost two decades but whose future is uncertain after comments by Andrea Agnelli. Made 45 appearances in all competitions last season but this campaign may be his last.

9

Vincenzo IAQUINTA

Age 31 (21.11.79)
World Cup-winner who joined from Udinese in 2007 but has struggled with injuries and has fallen down the pecking order under Conte.

32

Alessandro MATRI

Age 27 (19.08.84)
Joined from Cagliari in the January 2011 transfer window and has since established himself as a key component of the Juventus attack, as well as winning his first Italy cap.

Plus: (38) **AMAURI** (Age 31, 03.06.80)

THE KIT

Home kit

Second kit

THE COACH

Antonio CONTE

Age 42 (31.07.69)
The epitome of a hard-working midfielder during his 12 seasons with Juventus, during which time he won multiple honours. Began his coaching career with Serie B side Arezzo and worked for three other teams at that level – Bari, Atalanta and Siena – while resisting calls to join Juventus on a number of occasions, insisting he had insufficient experience. Won promotion to Serie A with both Bari (2009) and Siena (2011), but left Atalanta in the middle of the 2009-10 season with the club in 19th place. Finally joined Juventus this summer.

Paolo DE CEGLIE

Age 25 (17.09.86)
Left-back and youth product who missed much of last season with a knee ligament injury. Former under-21 international who made his Juve debut in the 2006-07 season in Serie B.

Fabio GROSSO

Age 33 (28.11.77)
World Cup-winning left-back who scored twice in 2006 semi-final against Germany and scored the winning penalty in the Final shoot-out against France. Joined Juve in 2009 after two seasons in France with Lyon, but no longer first choice.

Stephan LICHTSTEINER (Swi)

Age 27 (16.01.84)
Switzerland international right-back who likes to attack. Joined from Lazio in summer 2011 for around £10m as the club sought to bolster an ailing defence. Completed an apprenticeship in banking when a trainee at Grasshoppers.

Marco MOTTA

Age 25 (14.05.86)
Right-back who joined on loan from Udinese last season but has yet to feature under Conte. Impressed at Roma in 2009-10 before falling out of favour. Former under-21 captain who has been capped once at senior level.

Frederic SORENSEN (Den)

Age 19 (14.04.92)
Denmark under-21 who can play in the centre or at right-back. Got his chance last season, replacing the injured Motta, while on an initial loan from Lyngby, where he was captain despite his age.

Milos KRASIC (Ser)

Age 27 (01.11.84)
Dynamic right-sided midfielder who has been compared to former Juve great, Pavel Nedved. Enjoyed an excellent first season in 2010-11 after joining from CSKA Moscow.

Claudio MARCHISIO

Age 25 (19.01.86)
Local-born Italy international who plays an attacking central midfield role alongside the deeper-placed Pirlo. A regular for club and country since returning from a loan spell at Empoli in 2007-08.

Simone PEPE

Age 28 (30.08.83)
Right-sided but can play in a number of positions. "I have a bat with lots of nails in it. When his intensity drops I threaten him with it," jokes Conte on how he gets the best out of Pepe.

Andrea PIRLO

Age 32 (19.05.79)
Of Milan's ageing stars, Pirlo was the one they should have retained in the summer, rather than let him go to rivals Juventus. Still able to run the show with an absurd self-assurance, while in the process inspiring his team-mates.

Arturo VIDAL (Chl)

Age 24 (22.05.87)
A highly effective performer for Bayer Leverkusen last season when he earned a £10m move to Turin. Was thrown out of Chile's squad for their World Cup qualifiers in November after turning up 45 minutes late for a training session.

Fabio QUAGLIARELLA

Age 28 (31.01.83)
Italy international who signed a permanent deal this summer after a year on loan from Napoli. However, by mid-November he had made only one substitute appearance.

Luca TONI

Age 34 (26.05.77)
Veteran international who returned to the club in January 2011 but whose future was placed in jeopardy after he was arrested in October on a drink-driving charge.

Mirko VUCINIC (Mne)

Age 28 (01.10.83)
Montenegro international who joined Juventus for £13m this summer after five prolific campaigns with Roma and has continued to score valuable goals.

THE STADIUM

JUVENTUS STADIUM (capacity 41,000)

Opened this summer on the site of the old Stadio delle Alpi at an estimated cost of £102million. The proximity of the crowd to the pitch is seen as a factor in improved home performances, while the club has benefitted financially as they wholly own the new stadium – unlike the municipally-owned Stadio delle Alpi, which was shared with Torino.

Talentscout

Dorlan PABON

COUNTRY	Colombia
CLUB	Atletico Nacional
POSITION	Winger
AGE	23 (24.01.88)
PREVIOUS CLUBS	Bajo Cauca, Envigado
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT	September 2009, v Uruguay
CAPS	8 (1 goal)
HONOURS	2011 Colombian apertura

When Leonel Alvarez took charge of his first competitive game as boss of Colombia – after stepping up from the post of assistant coach following the off-field scandal that forced Hernan Dario Gomez's resignation – he retained the team structure he had inherited and the vast majority of the personnel for the opening World Cup qualifier away to Bolivia.

He did, however, stamp his own mark on the side with the return of Dorlan Pabon on the right wing.

"With Dorlan we're looking to attack down the flanks," said Alvarez before the game. "He can also play up front. He's in good form. He can score goals, set them up and he's matured a lot."

Before October's game, Pabon had only flickered briefly for his country. All but two of his seven previous caps had come in brief substitute appearances and he had not played for Colombia in almost a year. But Alvarez's decision to bring him in proved thoroughly justified.

As Bolivia pushed forward their high defensive line was unable to cope with the sustained pace of Pabon. In the first half he came close three times, and he then opened the scoring after the interval, getting behind the defence once more to beat the goalkeeper with a composed, patient little chip at the far post.

The goal set up Colombia for a 2-1 victory – the only away win in the first two rounds of South America's qualifiers – and not many sides are likely to match their achievement at the extreme altitude of La Paz.

While the nippy winger may have got his country off to a flying start on the road to Brazil 2014, his own path in life has been far from easy. The youngest of six children, his father died before he was born, throwing his mother into a crisis of alcohol abuse. He was farmed out to an aunt and football became his escape.

"I would play with nothing on my feet and no shirt," he recalls. "I would pick up a ball and be playing from 10 in the morning until seven at night."

Those long hours honed a natural talent. Quick and stocky, he held his own as a teenager in the second division with the now defunct Bajo Cauca, moving into the top flight in 2008 when he joined Envigado, Medellin's third force. After a tentative first year he exploded in 2009, winning his first international caps at the tail end of the 2010 World Cup qualifiers.

He made the move to Medellin giants Atletico Nacional in the summer of 2010 and has continued to make steady progress. Fitting perfectly into coach Santiago Escobar's 4-2-3-1 formation, he played a big part in the side's apertura success this year, using his pace to beat defenders and set up others, or cutting in and shooting on the run with either foot.

> Atletico Nacional hope to see off interest from Europe and Argentina, keeping hold of Pabon for next year's Libertadores campaign

Although Atletico Nacional hope to see off interest from Europe and Argentina, keeping hold of Pabon for next year's Libertadores campaign, events in Bolivia might just have made their task that little bit harder.

Tim Vickery

Alessio CERCI

COUNTRY	Italy
CLUB	Fiorentina
POSITION	Winger
AGE	24 (23.07.87)
PREVIOUS CLUBS	Roma, Brescia (loan), Pisa (loan), Atalanta (loan)

Despite scoring six times in the final five games of last season, and continuing in a similarly rich vein of form this term, the speedy Fiorentina winger remains unloved by many *Viola* fans, some of whom still regularly single him out for abuse and tend to regard him as too inconsistent and too flashy in his lifestyle.

And it would appear that his acrimonious relationship with the ultras in the north end of the Artemio Franchi stadium is not helped by the fact that he is a Roman, from the commune of Velletri to the south of the capital.

"The same fans now singing my name were, not long ago, insulting my girlfriend and I in the street," declares Cerci, who was given his professional debut at the age of 16 by then-Roma coach Fabio Capello but never quite managed to establish himself there. "I won't forget. I was the scapegoat. Maybe because I'm young. Maybe because I'm a Roman.

"I will never run to the north end to celebrate a goal. I've been hurt inside."

Although his affinity for trouble – which in the past has included spats with recently-sacked Fiorentina coach Sinisa Mihajlovic and a much-publicised clash with a traffic warden – does attract the wrong sort of headlines, his ability to operate on either flank, particularly on the right from where he can cut inside and shoot powerfully with his left foot, has seen just as many admirers calling for him to be given a first full cap for Italy.

"I try to copy the play of a Messi or a Robben, to always look to take on and beat defenders," he says of his role models.

Signed from Roma for £3.5million in August 2010, his problems with Fiorentina's fans meant he was straining at the leash to head for England when Manchester City made an offer for him in the summer. But as keen as City boss Roberto Mancini was to sign Cerci, an asking price of £6m was more than the Premier League club were willing to pay.

Not that Fiorentina were fighting tooth and nail to hold onto him. With Mihajlovic reportedly set to switch to a 4-3-1-2 system for the current campaign, there seemed absolutely no room for a winger of Cerci's ilk.

However, when the playmaker Mihajlovic craved failed to arrive he decided to stick with his tried-and-tested 4-3-3, and Cerci was able to show off his skills.

Nick Bidwell

Adrian MIERZEJEWSKI

COUNTRY	Poland
CLUB	Trabzonspor (Tur)
POSITION	Midfielder
AGE	25 (04.11.86)
PREVIOUS CLUBS	Stomil Olsztyn, Wisla Plock, Zaglebie Sosnowiec (loan), Polonia Warsaw
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT	May 2010, v Finland
CAPS	6 (1 goal)

Turkish fans have few equals as far as enthusiasm for their club is concerned and those of Trabzonspor certainly held nothing back when the Polish attacking midfielder arrived in late June to complete his move from Polonia Warsaw. After he passed through passport control to be welcomed by club officials, supporters of the Black Sea outfit promptly hoisted Mierzejewski onto their shoulders and carried him to a waiting car. No "welcome to hell" here.

But after the warm greeting, the playmaker – who can also operate as a left-sided creator – has a great deal to prove over the coming season. Trabzonspor have identified him as the ideal supply line for marksmen such as Burak Yilmaz and Halil Altintop, while back in his homeland the media will be keeping a close eye on him in his first spell in a foreign league. The £4.6million Trabzonspor spent on him is the biggest transfer fee anyone has ever paid for a Poland-based player – the previous record being set last year when Borussia Dortmund paid Lech Poznan £4.1m for striker Robert Lewandowski – and, with the European Championship on home soil just around the corner, Mierzejewski cannot afford any slip-ups in what will be the most vital of campaigns.

Not that he should have any problem delivering the goods in Turkey. Voted Poland's player of the year last season, he established himself as one of the most accomplished performers to have emerged from the Ekstraklasa in quite some time and there is every reason to believe that his skill, vision, energy and pugnacious character will make him extremely popular in Trabzon.

"The good thing about Adrian is that there are many facets to his game," says Poland coach Franciszek Smuda. "He can play in several different positions in the middle of the field, has a smart football brain, is a leader and, apart from his flair for setting up chances, he likes to battle and impose himself too.

"He's only been in the national team for a-year-and-a-half, but he's growing in assurance with each appearance and you could see the confidence rise up in him when he scored his first goal for us in our win over Argentina at the end of last season. It has lit a spark in him, I think."

From the north-eastern Polish city of Olsztyn, a conurbation principally known as the base for a Michelin tyre factory, his career to date has been more one of steady acceleration than burning rubber. Starting out at hometown club Stomil, he subsequently featured for Wisla Plock and on loan at Zaglebie Sosnowiec before signing in 2008 for Polonia, where he slowly but surely metamorphosed into their main man.

Poland will hope to be blown along by a gusting Black Sea wind next summer.

Nick Bidwell

Andriy YARMOLENKO

COUNTRY	Ukraine
CLUB	Dynamo Kiev
POSITION	Winger
AGE	23 (23.10.89)
PREVIOUS CLUB	Desna Chernihiv
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT	September 2009, v Andorra
CAPS	14 (5 goals)

Tradition plays a huge role in bringing up new stars at Dynamo Kiev. Andriy Shevchenko watched the great Oleg Blokhin play for his club in the 1980s while a ball boy and he has repeatedly said that the current national coach's performances were an excellent example for him to follow. Now it is Shevchenko who is the role model for the club's latest rising star.

"When I was eight I watched the beautiful goals scored by the Dynamo no7 against Barcelona and I dreamed of carrying on Sheva's great tradition at the club," says Yarmolenko, who these days plays alongside his hero.

"Yarmolenko is the future of Ukrainian football," says Shevchenko. "He is one of the best of the new generation. He has a rare combination of physical strength and football intelligence.

"He has already proved the top player both for the club and the national side."

Shakhtar Donetsk were also keen on the 16-year-old who scored Desna Chernihiv's winner against Spartak Sumy on his debut in 2005, but Dynamo moved quickly to give their former academy player a second chance,

signing him on a five-year deal. After two seasons in the reserves, he scored on his Ukraine Premier League debut in a 2-1 victory over Vorskla Poltava in May 2008, and in his first full season he scored seven goals in 28 games when used by ex-coach Valery Gazzaev as either a left-back or a winger.

"The coach wanted to use my speed and technical skills on the left, so it was a real test for me to readjust in the interest of the team," says Yarmolenko.

> "He is the future of Ukrainian football"
> Andriy Shevchenko

Yuri Semin, who returned to coach Dynamo in December 2010, offered him even more opportunities and he scored 11 goals during the 2010-11 season.

"Yarmolenko is the most industrious and inventive player in the squad," says Semin. "Every game, whether it is in the league or in Europe, his work rate is 20 per cent higher than anyone."

Rubin Kazan bid nearly £8million for him in June, while Napoli were ready to add £2m more, but Dynamo president Ihor Surkis would not sell, saying: "Yarmolenko is our greatest hope and we believe he will help us win the Premier League this season".

Yarmolenko's goal after 15 seconds against Uruguay in September was the country's fastest at international level and he is now a squad regular. "When he puts his game together he is unstoppable," says Blokhin.

Oleg Zadernovsky

FIVE TO FOLLOW

LEADING STRIKERS IN THE EURO UNDER-21 QUALIFIERS

Alexander ESSWEIN

Age 21 (25.03.90)
Country Germany
Club Nuremberg

A constant source of goals for various Germany age-group sides, this bullish and opportunistic front man or left-winger won bronze at the Under-17 World Cup in 2007.

Manolo GABBIADINI

Age 19 (26.11.91)
Country Italy
Club Atalanta

Made his Serie A debut the season before last at the age of just 18 and is reported to be interesting Juventus. His sister, Melania, plays up front for Italy ladies.

Aleksandr KOKORIN

Age 20 (19.03.91)
Country Russia
Club Dynamo Moscow

Five goals in three Under-21 qualifiers earned him a place in the full squad for November's friendly against Greece. He scored on his Russian Premier League debut three years ago, aged 17 years and 199 days.

Jordan RHODES

Age 21 (05.02.90)
Country Scotland
Club Huddersfield Town (Eng)

Born in England and playing in the English third tier, he owes his eligibility to the five years spent in Scottish schools while his father, Andy, kept goal for Dunfermline, St Johnstone and Airdrie in the 1990s.

RODRIGO

Age 20 (06.03.91)
Country Spain
Club Benfica (Por)

The Brazil-born attacker scored three goals as Spain finished runners-up at this year's Euro Under-19s. He joined Benfica from Real Madrid this summer in a £5m – although Real have an option to buy him back for £10m.

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Soccer Cities Northern Spain

Peterjon Cresswell visits Spain's Atlantic coastline

There are currently five La Liga clubs in the regions that spread across northern Spain – **Racing Santander** in Cantabria, **Sporting Gijon** in Asturias, **Osasuna** in Navarre, and **Athletic Bilbao** and **Real Sociedad** in the Basque Country – and with most being situated close to the coast, a weekend football break can easily be accompanied by some seaside relaxation.

Much of the area's football history is linked with industrialisation and the British influence at the turn of the last century. Foundry men and mining engineers from the UK brought football to Bilbao – plus the red-and-white striped shirts of the then-dominant English club, Sunderland. Another trend was for wealthy local industrialists and merchants to send their sons to England for their education, and it was they who brought back the new game of football with them to San Sebastian in the early 1900s.

Athletic Bilbao, Racing Santander and Real Sociedad were, along with Basque sides Real Union de Irun and Arenas Club de Getxo, founding members of the original Spanish league in 1927. Along with Barcelona and Real Madrid, Athletic have never been relegated from the Spanish top flight, and their achievement is all the more remarkable considering they have always carried out a policy of only hiring players with Basque connections. WS

Basque derby...Bilbao (left) and Sociedad

SPORTING GIJON

EL MOLINON

Boasts the oldest pitch in the country still in use, dating back to 1908 when games were played on the site of an old windmill (*molinon*). Sporting Gijon bought the ground in 1924 and rebuilt it after a fire seven years later. Spain's first all-covered stadium currently holds 30,000 fans – the bulk of them season-ticket holders – and is located on the banks of the Piles river, near the Parque de Isabel la Catolica, just east of the town centre. Buses 1, 10 and 26 serve the El Molinon stop and on match days there is a special service on lines 1, 4 and 10.

ATHLETIC BILBAO

SAN MAMES

"La Catedral", as it is known locally, can hold almost 40,000 people and is the oldest ground in Spain, having been originally built in 1913. Twice renovated, most recently to host World Cup games in 1982, a new 55,000-capacity stadium is currently being built alongside the old ground and will open in 2013 to coincide with the old arena's centenary. The stadium is in the city centre, beside the metro station of the same name, and has bars all around it. The main Athletic supporters groups occupy the lower north stand and the south stand, away fans are usually funnelled through gates 9 and 35, and neutrals are best placed in the lower east stand. Note that signs are in Basque and the main ticket booths are the *txarteldegi ofiziala*. Tickets can also be bought from BBK cashpoints. Stadium tours and visits to the club museum are organized through gates 26 and 27, and you'll find the club shop at Felipe Serrate 5.

DERBY DAYS

The Basque derby between Athletic Bilbao and Real Sociedad is a display of regional solidarity against Spanish rule amid low-key animosity between the two clubs. Athletic represent traditionally working-class Bilbao, while Real (Spanish for "royal") Sociedad come from the fashionable resort of San Sebastian along the coast.

Basque football's heyday came in the immediate aftermath of Franco's death, a fortnight after which the captains of the two teams jointly displayed the illegal Basque flag to a cheering derby crowd. Within seven years, Sociedad had won the league twice, in 1981 and 1982, with Athletic winning the next two.

Both clubs originally had a policy of fielding only Basque players, until Sociedad signed Republic of Ireland striker John Aldridge in 1989. Athletic continue to be the Basque flagship.

RACING SANTANDER

EL SARDINERO

Opened in August 1988 as part of a modest sports complex, the stadium is just tucked in from the seafront, by the Cantabrian University, north-east of the town centre. Holding 22,000 people, it was named after the city's most popular beach, and you can even take a stroll the length of Santander's seafront to get there. Buses 1, 2, 6 and 12 also stop nearby. The club shop and main ticket office are by gate 1, at the corner of the Tribunas Este and Sur. For a pre-match drink, stop off at La Liga (Calle de Pena Herbosa 17), which is part bar, part club museum.

DIARY DATES

Athletic won 2-1 at Sociedad in early October and the pair don't meet in the return until March 2012. However, with five La Liga clubs in the north Spain region there will always be at least a couple of top-flight matches on in the area every weekend.

REAL SOCIEDAD

ANOETA

The club played their first matches on the beaches of Ondarreta before moving into the intimate Atotxa, where they spent the next 80 years before taking over the 32,000 Anoeta, in San Sebastian, in August 1993. Built in the Amara Nuevo suburb of town, south of a bend in the Urumea by the outer ring road, the sports complex comprises four undulating stands and a running track. Accessed from Avenida de Madrid from focal Plaza Pio XII, the ground is served by special buses on match days, or you can take regular city buses 17, 21, 26 and 28 from Atotxa. The nearby rock-themed Chopper Bar (Calle Toribio Alzaga 15) is a handy pre-match meeting spot. A museum and trophy room was opened in 2009 to coincide with the club's centenary.

OSASUNA

REYNO DE NAVARRA

Situated in Pamplona, which is famed for its annual bull run, the stadium formerly known as El Sadar opened in 1967 and now holds nearly 20,000 people, following the addition of a new stand in 1989. The ground is set in the far southern fringes of the town, towards the local airport, beside the Avenida de Zaragoza. The closest bars are the El Sario and El Txoko del Sadar on Calle Sadar. To reach the ground, take bus 11 from the Plaza de Toros to the Sadar 14 stop.

Facetoface

CRISTIANO RONALDO

"God wasn't liked by everyone, what chance have I got?"

The ESM Golden Shoe winner on goalscoring, Alex Ferguson and the inevitable comparisons with Lionel Messi

Congratulations on winning the ESM Golden Shoe. You got 40 league goals last season. Or did you in fact get 41? There is a debate in Spain about the goal you were given at Real Sociedad when your shot went in off the back of Pepe...
It's 40, isn't it? Officially, at least. It really doesn't matter; it's still a great total. But I still think that goal is mine! And of course I always want more. But it is still a fantastic achievement and I am very proud. I would like to say thank you to my team-mates and all the coaching staff. I know that if it wasn't for them I would not be here.

Were you surprised to get 40 goals?
Yes, to be honest, I was. At the start of the season I would never have expected it. But as the season progressed I had an idea that something like this might be possible. I could see how well the team were playing, the chances we were making.

Madrid's previous best was 38, scored by Hugo Sanchez. How conscious of the club's history are you and how does that record make you feel?
It matters. I feel really proud to beat that record. It is not something that I think about a lot, but of course it is lovely to form part of the history of Madrid. I also didn't know that only one Real Madrid player had won the Golden Shoe before – and that was Hugo Sanchez. Now, I have won two of them. I said when I won it in Manchester that, as it was a boot, I wanted the pair. When I was getting closer I saw Hugo Sanchez and he told me that he hoped that I went beyond his 38 goals.

He was lying...
No, I think he meant it. Records are there to be broken. One day someone may break my record and if they do I will congratulate them because they will have deserved it. Mind you, I hope they don't!

Where do you play best?
"He plays on the left, he plays on the right..." Manchester United's fans used to sing that! It depends on the boss, but the truth is that I prefer to play on the left with the chance to come inside and run with freedom, but it doesn't matter. I have been on the right wing, on the left wing and as a centre-forward. I'm not going to lie, though. I am happiest on the left.

What was the best of the goals you scored last season?
That's a difficult question. I scored a lot of nice goals. I think I would say the header in the Final of the Spanish Cup against Barcelona. It probably wasn't the most beautiful but it was the most important.

Have you reached your peak now? Is there more to come from you?
You never know. But what I do know is the day I think I know everything is the day I stop being a good player. I try to improve every year. I like to try new things, to work on ironing out my faults, to get better.

The inevitable question is whether you are the best player in the world and the seemingly unavoidable comparisons with Leo Messi...
You can't compare us. You can't compare Ronaldo and Messi, Xavi and Xabi Alonso, Ferrari and Porsche. They are different things, different machines. It is not fair to make comparisons.

But it's inevitable isn't it. It sometimes seems like you don't get the credit you deserve because Messi is around. You are obviously a candidate for the World Player award, for example, but Messi is probably the favourite...
The World Player is about opinions, votes. This Golden Shoe is objective, it is about statistics. I am not bothered about the Messi-Ronaldo debate, really I am not. It is great to compete against the best, but I am not competing with Leo, I am competing with everyone. The most important thing is to win with the team.

You seem to divide opinion...
If even God wasn't liked by everyone, what chance have I got?

Some of the collective awards still evade you in Spain and some commentators have accused you of being a selfish player. However, this year you have provided more assists than ever...
I prefer collective titles – and, anyway, if you win things collectively, then you will win things as an individual too. Some people say I am more of a team player this season, and maybe the stats suggest that, but I don't feel I am playing in a different way. My attitude is still to try to help the team. And I hope we can win something big this season: the league or the Champions League. This club has to think about the Champions League always. This is the biggest club in the world so it must focus on the biggest trophy.

How do you rate Alex Ferguson?
He and Jose Mourinho are the best. They are quite similar. They are friendly, the have a lot of experience, they are clever, they have won everything. They work hard, they have great knowledge. I spoke to [Manchester United chief executive] David Gill about the celebrations for Ferguson's 25 years and I wanted to go but in the end I couldn't, which was a pity. It is amazing what he has achieved. He is a fantastic manager who helped me a lot and has a special place in my life. He showed me the right way and he taught me to play at one of the biggest clubs in the world. I was only 18 and he was so important to me. It is partly because of him that I am here.

Interview by Sid Lowe

On Jose Mourinho...

"Everywhere he goes he wins things and that's why they call him 'the Special One'. I don't know if he is special, but he is different to everyone else around. He has better ideas, he sees the game better, he motivates the players, he understands us"

Facetoface

BOBBY WILLIAMSON

"I love working for these people...this is the most rewarding job I've ever had"

The Glaswegian could never have imagined the standing he would attain in Uganda upon taking charge of their perennially underachieving national side in 2008

A goalless draw against Kenya in October means Uganda's 33-year wait for a place in the African Nations Cup finals continues. Despite this disappointment, do you still feel Ugandan football is making progress?
To see the stadium [in Kampala] jam-packed that day was something special and I was just so sorry we couldn't deliver what everyone wanted. Prior to the game I was saying it could be a catalyst, giving everybody a feel-good factor and proving we're moving in the right direction. I still believe that's the case. We've a very strong defence that kept five clean sheets in six games during the qualifiers and that's a real backbone to build on. There's a good number of young players coming through and I'm hoping to discover more about them at the CECAFA Cup [in late November]. I think people can see there's plenty to be positive about.

The roar that greeted you as you walked across the pitch before the Kenya game was extraordinary. Could you ever have envisaged being revered by an entire nation like this?
It's incredible and sometimes brings a lump to my throat, which is why drawing against Kenya disappointed me even more. Never in my wildest dreams could I have expected this to happen to me. As a player and a coach you think about working on different continents, but Africa had never really come into the equation. Sometimes I still have to pinch myself and ask how did I get here.

That's a good question in itself, because Kampala is a long way from your previous managerial jobs at Kilmarnock, Hibernian, Plymouth Argyle and Chester City...
It nearly didn't happen. After Csaba Laszlo left Uganda to join Hearts, my agent arranged an interview for me in Kampala. They offered me the job but I wasn't satisfied about certain things and concluded that I couldn't be happy here. The next day the federation produced a contract but I told them I wasn't going to sign. I was supposed to fly home that night but wasn't allowed on the flight – apparently we hadn't confirmed it. As far as the federation were concerned I'd left the country, but I booked a hotel and found myself walking on a beach near Lake Victoria the next morning. Taking in the surroundings, sitting in the sun, seeing how friendly everybody was, I started thinking maybe there's something I can do here. I went back and agreed to help out for the next two games, against Niger and Benin, before taking it from there. We lost the first, won the second, and in the meantime I came to love the country.

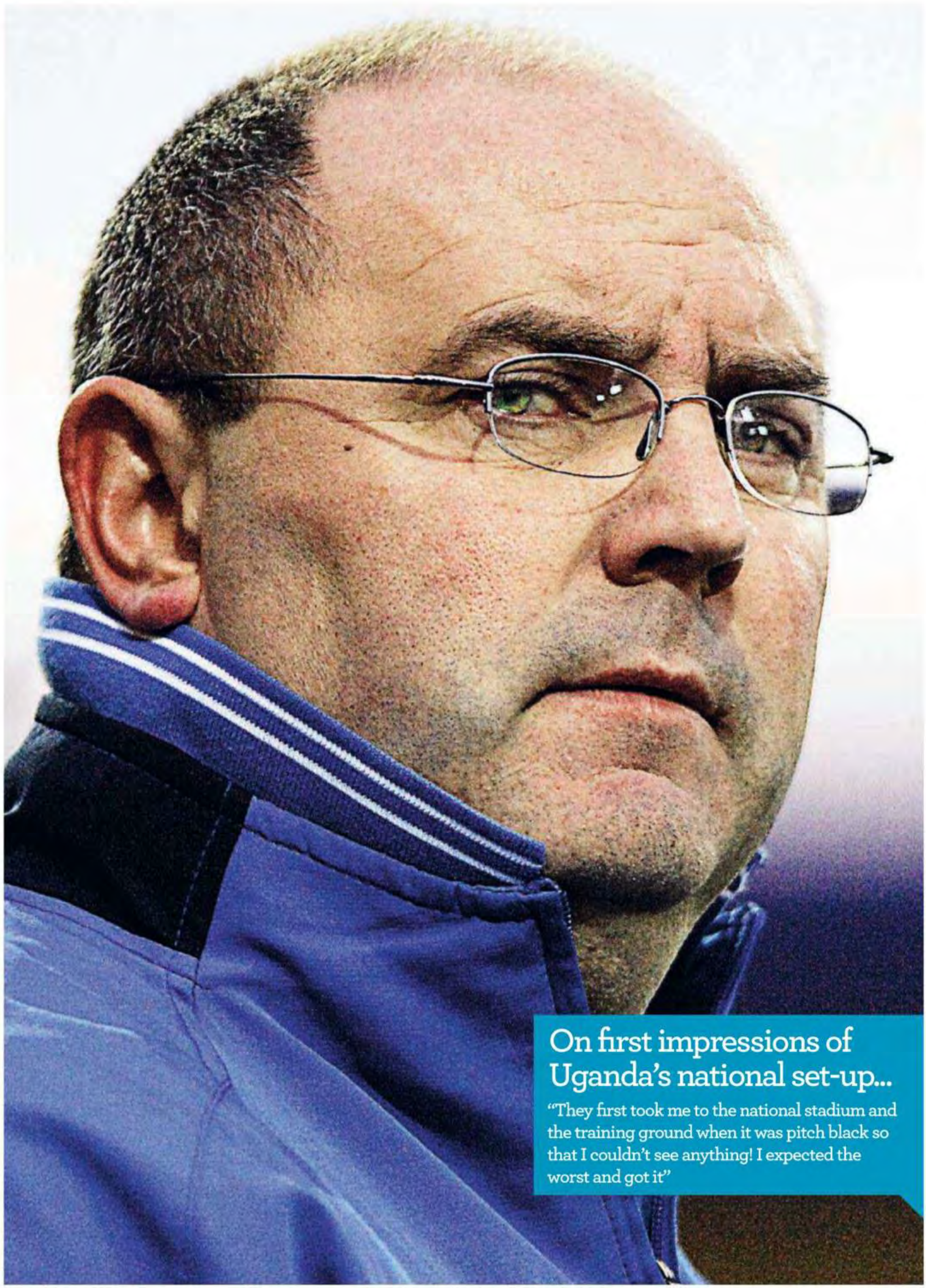
What were things like when you first took over Uganda's national side?
What impressed me was that the players were prepared to make the most of everything they had. Tactically, I found a local league whose sides were rooted in playing cautious, narrow midfield diamonds while I prefer an expansive, balanced side using wingers, so that's taken work, but the players have all responded well.

How quickly were you able to get to know the players?
It was difficult initially. When I first went to watch a domestic match there were no team sheets and you'd rarely see numbers on players' shirts. I'd have to go away and talk to people if I wanted to discover who individuals were. But I was pleasantly surprised by the quality and got to know the players over time. I'm always watching local games. The previous manager focused entirely on the foreign-based professionals, but you have to encourage the talent that's here. Several of them have come through so I'll keep working that way. I brought Brian Umony into the team a couple of years ago. He finished top scorer in the 2009 CECAFA Cup, moved to South Africa, is now playing in MLS with Portland Timbers and was the best attacker on the pitch against Kenya. He's 22 and has a bright future – and, believe me, he's not the only one.

Ugandans speak of your man-management skills and ability to keep the squad focused. Have you had to adapt your style since arriving?
I've always been a players' man, but I've had to change, yes. For example, the industrial language used in Britain doesn't work here. I've never heard a Ugandan player use expletives. It was a few weeks before I realised I had to curtail my own vocabulary because they simply wouldn't understand or respond to it. My accent has been tempered too, although it had to be! Everyone mellows with age, but as a Scotsman there's still that fire in you. We're loyal people and support our players through thick and thin.

Does missing out on the Nations Cup finals raise questions about your future? What lies ahead?
Well, there's a World Cup to go for and another Cup of Nations in 2013. First, I'm focusing on the CECAFA Cup, which will provide an opportunity to identify talent that can help us. I have loyalty to this country, the same as it has shown me. My agent tells me one or two parties have made enquiries, but I've no interest in leaving because I love working for these people. Hopefully they feel the same. Continuity is the only way anyone's succeeded in football and I have a deep understanding of the game in Uganda now. You never look too far ahead, but it would be a sad day if I had to leave. This is the most rewarding job I've ever had.

Interview by Nick Ames



On first impressions of Uganda's national set-up...

"They first took me to the national stadium and the training ground when it was pitch black so that I couldn't see anything! I expected the worst and got it"

Keir Radnedge

THE INSIDER

The expert view on events off the pitch

Time is against Blatter

FIFA president faces a race against time to implement reforms

Roadmap...Blatter sets out his latest plans for reform

At one point during Sepp Blatter's explanation of the Task Force-strewn "road map" for reform, his new communications director, Walter De Gregorio, pleaded for the international media to be patient and give FIFA and its president a little more time.

The trouble is, time is not on Blatter's side. He has become fond, of late, of seafaring images, so to pick up on those analogies: turning a tanker around in mid-ocean needs plenty of time and space.

The allegations concerning Nicolas Leoz, Ricardo Teixeira, Joao Havelange and Issa Hayatou in relation to ISL (International Sport and Leisure) go back more than a decade, while the various escapades of Jack Warner go back before the 2006 creation of the Ethics Committee (indeed, the prohibition on retrospective action was a specifically Warner-friendly gesture).

So the bilges of the Good Ship FIFA have been awash with time – years and years and years of it.

In June, after his re-election, Blatter talked about quick decisions by his new-look executive committee to be ratified by an extraordinary congress. That has not happened.

To be fair, Blatter will point out it's essential to make a good and credible job of the reforms and, if this takes longer than had been hoped, then it's a necessary delay. Discussing all the options with outside organisations, such as Transparency International, was bound to take time.

In addition to the revival of the strategy committee – which last met in 2009 – and the proposed submission of the ISL dossier to an independent panel for analysis, Blatter's road map involves the creation of four task forces:

- Task Force Revision of Statutes
- Task Force FIFA Ethics Committee
- Task Force Transparency and Compliance
- Task Force Football 2014

The statutes revision work will be led by Theo Zwanziger, a new member of the executive committee who is the German federation president. He is a declared sceptic about the 2022 World Cup award to Qatar and about the existence of the law-making International Board with its four-man representation of the four British "home" associations.

Switzerland's Claudio Sulser has the task of strengthening the Ethics Committee through its division into investigative and judicial sections as well as election of its members by Congress.

The task force for transparency and compliance will "identify the problems with which the national associations are faced with respect to FIFA" and its joint presidency is shared by New Zealand's Frank Van Hattum and Juan Angel Napout of Paraguay.

The fourth task force, to review football – "the actual game itself" – has been in operation since May 2011 under the chairmanship of Franz Beckenbauer. His immediate challenge to his colleagues is to rewrite the offside interpretations which, considering the mixture of languages, could take some time to interpret.

The work of these task forces will be fed into a Good Governance Committee, which will be composed of between 15 and 18 members from inside and outside the "football family". Reporting directly to the executive committee, Blatter describes its task as "having to supervise whether reforms of FIFA that we've been asked to carry out by Congress...are the necessary measures against corruption. Finally, it will have to provide its opinion as to how football can recover its reputation in a position as a global institution that has the greatest number of activity participants."

Blatter remains robustly determined to see it all through, despite various forecasts of his mid-term departure. He denies that all of FIFA is corrupt just because some people "are not angels", denies that he had considered resigning especially since Congress elected him to oversee reform, and says he is "happy the executive committee is completely in step with what we want to achieve".

> A Good Governance Committee will assess if FIFA's reforms are the necessary measures against corruption

Blatter is adamant that "we have established a road map with key stages" but it is unlikely that everything could be accomplished in time for next spring's congress in Budapest. Instead, 2013 looks more reasonable.

Unless there is another slippage of time, of course. WS

FIFA prepares to publish ISL's dirty secrets

Quite how and in what form the ISL (International Sport and Leisure) papers will be thrown open for public scrutiny remains open to question despite FIFA president Sepp Blatter's assertion that "no one voted against" the proposal when he put it to his ExCo.

ISL, created originally by the late Horst Dassler in 1982, was FIFA's original TV rights and marketing partner, which went bankrupt in 2001, having overreached itself after seeking to diversify into other sports.

Allegations have circulated for years that documents from the criminal case prompted by the circumstances of its collapse named major figures in the world of sports politics as having received illicit payments.

These have included former FIFA president Joao Havelange, his former son-in-law Ricardo Teixeira, South American football confederation president Nicolas Leoz and African confederation leader Issa Hayatou.

Other sports leaders past and present are said to have been listed, including Lamine Diack, the Senegalese president of the International Association of Athletics Federations.

Teixeira, Leoz and Hayatou are all current members of the FIFA ExCo, while Teixeira is also president of the Brazilian confederation and the 2014 World Cup local organising authority.

Havelange and Hayatou are both members of the International Olympic Committee, which would have more than a passing interest in the ISL file since ISL created TOP (The Olympic Programme) sponsorship programme at the instigation of long-time former president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

The ISL issue was revived by a BBC *Panorama* programme and FIFA's hand has been forced further by the likely request from a Brazilian prosecutor to see the court papers in pursuance of an investigation into money-laundering allegations against Teixeira.

On May 11, 2009, FIFA and other parties agreed with the Court of Zug that all cases be halted and the papers sealed after two individuals – reported as Teixeira and Havelange – paid back 5.5million Swiss francs. However, the issue has never gone away and now FIFA is ready to confront what may prove to have been the murky truth.

"The issues of bringing out what this case file contains has been an issue not only in the media but has been raised by our national associations," says Blatter.

"It's a very complicated case and one that has very important legal repercussions [so] the executive committee has, at my request, agreed that in the ExCo of December 16 we will reopen this file. If there are any measures to be taken they will not be taken by the executive committee – it cannot impose sanctions – we will give this file to an independent organisation outside FIFA so that they can delve into this file, extract conclusions and present them to us. This independent organisation could also deal with other cases that could involve FIFA and that cannot be dealt with currently by one of FIFA's legal bodies."

Alleged payments... Teixeira (left) and Havelange

Speculation that Blatter is about "to name names" may prove wide of the mark after the lawyers and assessors have done their work. Blatter, with self-declared satisfaction, has noted: "When this decision [of 2009] was taken, the court in its official communiqué said that the people involved are not Swiss."

Good news for him then...albeit ISL's deep involvement with FIFA was on his watch as general secretary.

Cigarettes and alcohol

No butts...all references to smoking and the tobacco industry will be banned at Euro 2012

Back in the day, Michel Platini was one of those players not averse to a cigarette or a cigar; as were Johan Cruyff and Cesar Luis Menotti and Marcello Lippi, to name but three.

But that was then, and this is now – and Platini's European federation has declared a total ban on the use, sale and promotion of tobacco in all the Euro 2012 stadia.

On the World Cup organising front, with huge irony the first major sponsorship confirmation for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, the first Muslim nation to host the finals, is that of beer giant Anheuser-Busch, in a deal that also covers the 2018 finals in Russia.

Budweiser will therefore be the "Official Beer" for the ninth and 10th time – whatever local laws and culture may lay down in 2022. Qatar organising officials have always made it clear that visiting supporters and officials - and, who knows, maybe even players when allowed by their coaches - will not find any difficulty in partaking in alcohol consumption. The deal also covers the Confederations Cup "warm-up" hostings in 2017 and 2021.

6 of the best

Stars of Euro 2012 qualifying

Nick Bidwell selects the outstanding performers from the qualifiers for next summer's European Championship

1 Alan DZAGOEV

RUSSIA

AGE
21 (17.06.90)
POSITION
Midfielder
CLUB
CSKA Moscow

The attacking all-rounder certainly played his part in his country's successful journey to the Euro finals in Poland and Ukraine next year.

Four goals during the campaign – including one in the all-important 3-2 win against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin – allied to his capacity for a killer pass, the way he operates between the lines and a physical toughness of someone twice his size are all features of his game. But the one aspect which is sometimes overlooked is his aversion to losing. Every time Dzagoev takes to the field, his spirit and hunger are there for all to see, and it is worth contrasting his intensity with the habit of his Russia team-mate Andrei Arshavin who, on occasion, can be conquered by indifference.

Dzagoev's international debut – in a World Cup qualifier against Germany in 2008 – at the age of 18 years and 116 days made him Russia's youngest-ever outfield player and should have been a moment of sheer joy. However, frustrated by defeat and having hit the woodwork, the youngster described his big day "a flop".

If Russia are to make their mark at the finals they will need such single-minded focus.

2 Mario GOMEZ

GERMANY

AGE
26 (10.07.85)
POSITION
Forward
CLUB
Bayern Munich

It was his two goals in June's 2-1 win away to Austria that finally saw Gomez leapfrog the once immovable Miroslav Klose in the national side and cement his place as coach Joachim Low's first-choice leader of the line in a highly effective 4-2-3-1 system.

His efforts that night in Vienna also served as an exorcism, laying the ghost of the ridiculously easy chance he so awkwardly spurned in a Euro 2008 first-phase game against the same opponents at the same venue. Up until recently, Gomez was widely categorised as the Bundesliga goal-machine whose inner workings tended to seize up when representing his country. At both Euro 2008 and World Cup 2010 he was essentially a bit-part player, but in the past six months he finally seems to have found his international bearings, scoring in every qualifier he started: against Austria, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Belgium.

Confidence has made all the difference to the powerful hit man with Spanish roots. Once hopeful of converting chances for the national team, he is now utterly certain that he will.

3 Michael KROHN-DEHLI

DENMARK

AGE
28 (06.06.83)
POSITION
Left-winger
CLUB
Brondby

As Portugal found to their cost when losing out to Denmark in the race for direct qualification from Group H, successful teams require far more than egos and celebrity. While the Scandinavians had no one in the high-maintenance bracket of Cristiano Ronaldo or Nani, Morten Olsen's side did have purpose, solidarity and self-sacrifice by the bucketful, and no one in their ranks is more of a team man than MKD.

Combining fine technique, clever combination play, accurate crosses and an eye for goal, he opened the scoring in the vital 2-1 home win over Portugal in October, and it is easy to understand why coach Olsen has stuck by him these past two seasons.

After disappearing off the international radar following his international debut for Denmark as long ago as 2006, the former Ajax youth-team player rarely featured for the Amsterdam club's first team. But, following a loan spell at Sparta Rotterdam, he moved back home in 2008 to play for Brondby and has blossomed there ever since.

4 Henrikh MKHITARYAN

ARMENIA

AGE
22 (21.01.89)
POSITION
Midfielder
CLUB
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)

If Armenia turned out to be one of the surprise packets of the qualifiers, only missing out on a play-off berth when beaten 2-1 by the Republic of Ireland in their final group game, much of their new-found competitiveness can be attributed to the attacking midfielder who, thanks to his six-goal haul, ended up as the leading scorer in Group B.

Known as "The Maestro" in his home land, the country's player of the year in 2009 has good vision, a great touch, is industrious – and for good measure can play in any number of positions: up front, on the wing or as a playmaker, although his favourite habitat is just behind the strikers.

A full international since the age of 17, he joined Ukraine heavyweights Shakhtar Donetsk from crosstown rivals Metalurh for £6.6million in 2010.

5 Erik PIETERS

HOLLAND

AGE
23 (07.08.88)
POSITION
Left-back
CLUB
PSV Eindhoven

When Holland left-back Giovanni Von Bronckhorst called time on an outstanding 14-year international career in the summer of 2010, the country's merchants of doom and gloom feared the worst.

Life, however, goes on. While 23-year-old Pieters may not have Gio's attacking flair and goalscoring ability, his physical power, solidity, resourcefulness and consistency make him a valuable addition to the team – he played in nine of the 10 qualifiers – and it would not be surprising if he eventually relocated to central defence in the long term.

A member of the Holland side that won the European Under-21 title in 2007, he came through the youth ranks at Utrecht, playing two seasons in the first team before moving to PSV for £2.2million three years ago.

6 Adil RAMI

FRANCE

AGE
25 (27.12.85)
POSITION
Central defender
CLUB
Valencia (Spa)

Despite being saddled with no fewer than four different central-defensive sidekicks in the qualifiers – Philippe Mexes (with whom he has the best rapport), Mamadou Sakho, Eric Abidal and Younes Kaboul – the La Liga stopper has developed in just 15 months on the international circuit into the cornerstone of the France back-line.

Although some think he has his limitations positionally, national boss Laurent Blanc evidently does not agree, selecting him for 14 of his 17 games at the helm as *Les Bleus* topped Group D ahead of Bosnia.

Born in Corsica to Moroccan parents, Rami was asked several times by the north African nation to play for them, but always insisted that he regarded himself as French.

He left Lille for Valencia on an unmistakable high last summer as a French league-and-cup double winner.

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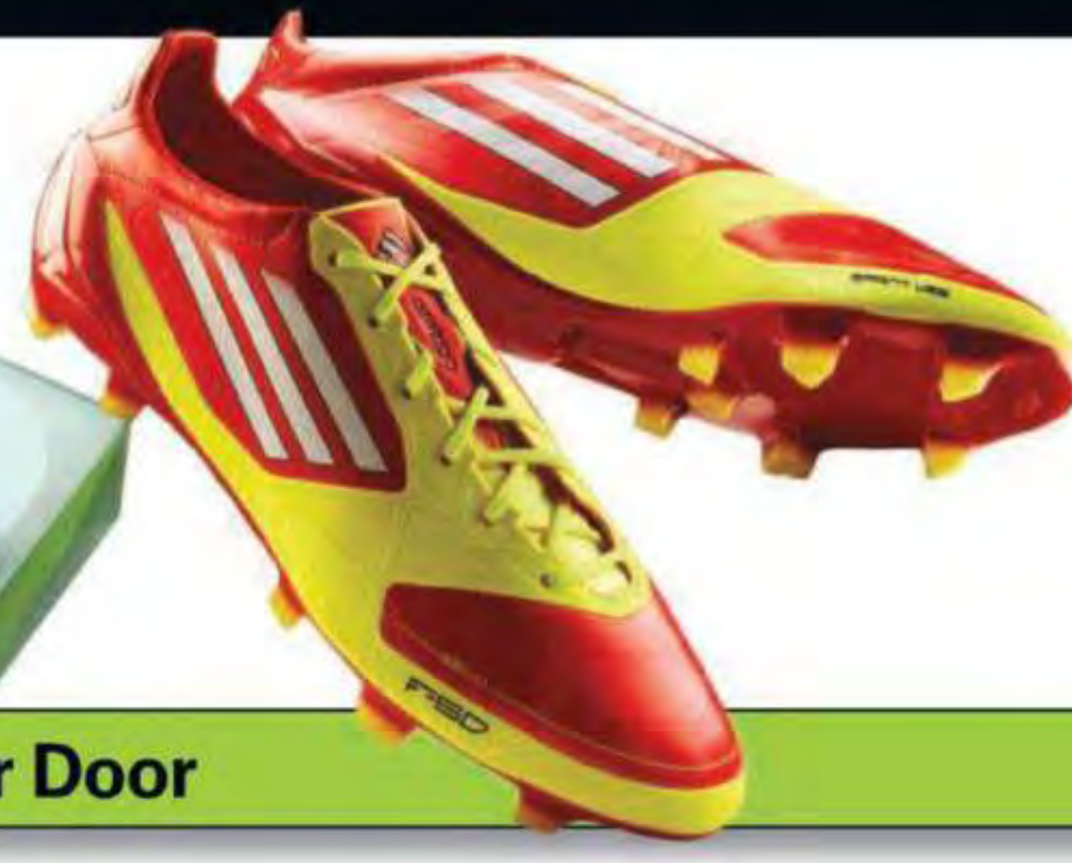

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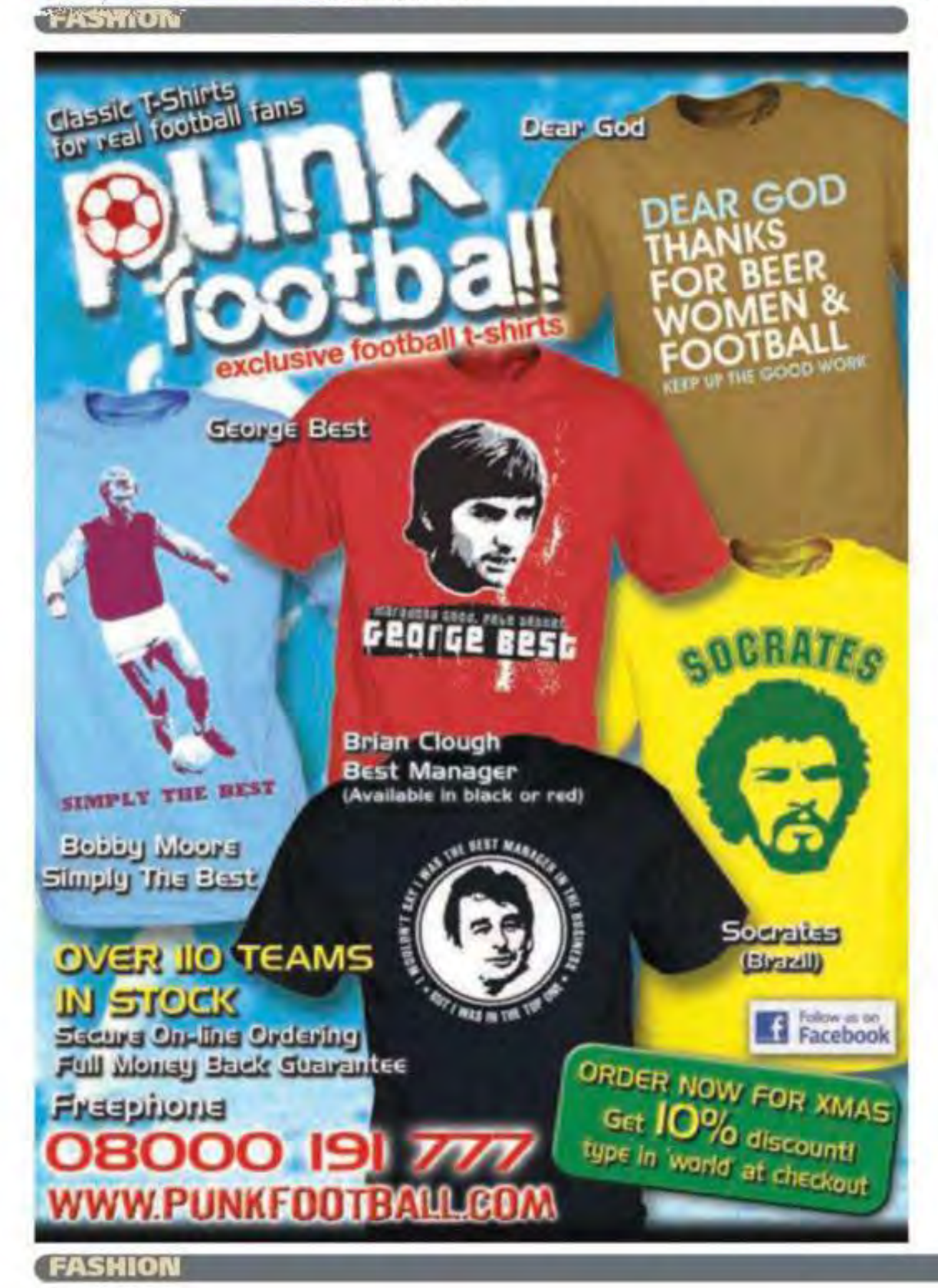

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Riding high...Aleksandar Kolarov (top) and Edin Dzeko celebrate Manchester City's sixth goal against their local rivals United

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Final race...Jeonbuk Motor's Choi Chul-sool (left) takes on Ali Afif of Al Sadd in the AFC Champions League Final

Not looking good...Bachdim

BAHRAIN

Gulf Cup switch
The 2013 Gulf Cup – which was due to be staged in Basra, Iraq – will now take place in Bahrain.

INDONESIA

A poor role model
Irfan Bachdim, a striker with Persema Malang who has 12 senior caps, has been banned from international duty for three months after putting his modelling career ahead of the national team.

The 23-year-old went on an advertising photo shoot rather than attend an under-23 training camp.

LIBERIA

Automatic qualification
Following Mauritius' decision to withdraw from the World Cup, Liberia advanced to the group stage, where they will face Angola, Senegal and Uganda.

MEXICO

Amione strikes gold
Atlante striker Jeronimo Amione scored the only goal as hosts Mexico beat Argentina 1-0 to win the gold medal at the Pan American Games.

Local hero...goalscorer Amione

INTERNATIONALS

Internationals

2014 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

CONCACAF SECTION
● 3.5 finals places available

2nd round
Group E

Oct 15 - St George's
Grenada 1 (Murray 90+2)
St Vincent & The Grenadines 1 (M Samuel 62)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Willett (A&B)
Grenada: J Charles - Augustine (L Joseph 88), Mark, Langaigne, P Modeste, Henry, Rocastle, Wellington (Murray 55), Redhead (Kyle Joseph 66), S Rennie, Julien.
St Vincent & The Grenadines: Sandy - C Huggins, Richardson, Richards, Lowman, McDowall, Trimmingham, S Samuel, Cuffy, E George (Balcombe 80), M Samuel (Ross 89).

WC QUALS: CONCACAF – 2ND ROUND – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guatemala (Q)	4	4	0	0	12	2	12
Grenada	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
St Vincent & G	4	1	1	2	3	9	4
Belize	4	1	0	3	6	9	3

Group winner (Guatemala) qualifies for the 3rd round, to which Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico and the United States qualified automatically

OCEANIA SECTION
● 0.5 finals places available

1st round group fixtures
To be played in Apia, Samoa

22.11.11 American Samoa v Tonga
Cook Islands v Samoa
24.11.11 American Samoa v Cook Islands
Samoa v Tonga
26.11.11 Samoa v American Samoa
Tonga v Cook Islands

Group winner qualifies for the 2nd round, to which Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tahiti and Vanuatu qualified automatically

FRIENDLIES

Monday, October 31

Oct 31 - Windhoek
Namibia 0
Lesotho 0

Friday, November 4

Nov 4 - Kuwait City
Kuwait 0
Bahrain 1 (Abdulrahman 45)
HT: 0-1

Nov 4 - Doha
Qatar 0
Oman 0

Sunday, November 6

Nov 6 - Doha, Qatar
Iraq 1 (Mahmoud pen 86)
Lebanon 0
HT: 0-0

Nov 6 - Pretoria, South Africa
Lesotho 0
DR Congo 3 (Mputu 30, Kanda 40, Kazembe 82)
HT: 0-2

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP FINALS

In Equatorial Guinea (Bata & Malabo) and Gabon (Libreville & Franceville)

Match schedule
Group A

Jan 21 Equatorial Guinea v Libya (Bata)
Senegal v Zambia (Bata)
Jan 25 Libya v Zambia (Bata)
Equatorial Guinea v Senegal (Bata)
Jan 29 Equatorial Guinea v Zambia (Malabo)
Libya v Senegal (Bata)

Group B

Jan 22 Ivory Coast v Sudan (Malabo)
Burkina Faso v Angola (Malabo)
Jan 26 Sudan v Angola (Malabo)
Ivory Coast v Burkina Faso (Malabo)
Jan 30 Sudan v Burkina Faso (Bata)
Ivory Coast v Angola (Malabo)

Group C

Jan 23 Gabon v Niger (Libreville)
Morocco v Tunisia (Libreville)
Jan 27 Niger v Tunisia (Libreville)
Gabon v Morocco (Libreville)
Jan 31 Gabon v Tunisia (Franceville)
Niger v Morocco (Libreville)

Group D

Jan 24 Ghana v Botswana (Franceville)
Mali v Guinea (Franceville)
Jan 28 Botswana v Guinea (Franceville)
Ghana v Mali (Franceville)
Feb 1 Botswana v Mali (Libreville)
Ghana v Guinea (Franceville)

Top 2 in each group qualify for quarter-finals

Quarter-finals

Feb 4 Gp A 1st v Gp B 2nd (Bata) (QF1)
Gp B 1st v Gp A 2nd (Malabo) (QF2)
Feb 5 Gp C 1st v Gp D 2nd (Libreville) (QF3)
Gp D 1st v Gp C 2nd (Franceville) (QF4)

Semi-finals

Feb 8 QF1 v QF4 (Bata)
QF3 v QF2 (Libreville)

3rd-place play-off

Feb 11 (Malabo)

Final

Feb 12 (Libreville)

EURO 2012 FINALS

In Poland (Warsaw, Wroclaw, Gdansk & Poznan) and Ukraine (Kharkiv, Lviv, Donetsk & Kiev)

Match schedule
Group A

June 8 Poland v A2 (Warsaw)
A3 v A4 (Wroclaw)
June 12 A2 v A4 (Wroclaw)
Poland v A3 (Warsaw)
June 16 A2 v A3 (Warsaw)
A4 v Poland (Wroclaw)

Group B

June 9 B1 v B2 (Kharkiv)
B3 v B4 (Lviv)
June 13 B2 v B4 (Lviv)
B1 v B3 (Kharkiv)
June 17 B4 v B1 (Kharkiv)
B2 v B3 (Lviv)

Group C

June 10 C1 v C2 (Gdansk)
C3 v C4 (Poznan)
June 14 C2 v C4 (Poznan)
C1 v C3 (Gdansk)
June 18 C4 v C1 (Gdansk)
C2 v C3 (Poznan)

Group D

June 11 D3 v D4 (Donetsk)
Ukraine v D2 (Kiev)
June 15 D2 v D4 (Kiev)
Ukraine v D3 (Donetsk)
June 19 D2 v D3 (Kiev)
D4 v Ukraine (Donetsk)

Top 2 in each group qualify for quarter-finals

Quarter-finals

June 21 Gp A 1st v Gp B 2nd (Warsaw) (QF1)
June 22 Gp B 1st v Gp A 2nd (Gdansk) (QF2)
June 23 Gp C 1st v Gp D 2nd (Donetsk) (QF3)
June 24 Gp D 1st v Gp C 2nd (Kiev) (QF4)

Semi-finals

June 27 QF1 v QF3 (Donetsk)
June 28 QF2 v QF4 (Warsaw)

Final

July 1 (Kiev)

Full finals draw will take place on December 2, in Kiev

FRIENDLY FIXTURES

29.11.11 India v Zambia (Goa)
07.01.12 South Africa v India (Johannesburg)
28.02.12 Egypt v Brazil (Cairo)
29.02.12 Germany v France (Bremen)
Greece v Czech Republic
Northern Ireland v Norway (Belfast)
Romania v Uruguay
Switzerland v Argentina (Berne)
Tunisia v Canada

2014 WORLD CUP FINALS

In Brazil

Matchdays & venues
Group A

June 12/13, June 17/18, June 23
Sao Paulo, Natal, Fortaleza, Manaus, Brasilia, Recife
● Brazil will play in this group, with games in Sao Paulo (opening match), Fortaleza and Brasilia

Group B

June 13, June 18, June 23
Salvador, Cuiaba, Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Curitiba, Sao Paulo

Group C

June 14, June 19, June 24
Belo Horizonte, Recife, Brasilia, Natal, Cuiaba, Fortaleza

Group D

June 14, June 19/20, June 24
Fortaleza, Manaus, Sao Paulo, Recife, Natal, Belo Horizonte

Group E

June 15, June 20, June 25
Brasilia, Porto Alegre, Salvador, Curitiba, Manaus, Rio de Janeiro

Group F

June 15/16, June 21, June 25
Rio de Janeiro, Curitiba, Belo Horizonte, Cuiaba, Porto Alegre, Salvador

Group G

June 16, June 21/22, June 26
Salvador, Natal, Fortaleza, Manaus, Recife, Brasilia

Group H

June 17, June 22, June 26
Belo Horizonte, Cuiaba, Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Sao Paulo, Curitiba

Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round

1st knockout round

June 28-July 1
Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro, Fortaleza, Recife, Brasilia, Porto Alegre, Sao Paulo, Salvador

Quarter-finals

July 4/5
Fortaleza, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Brasilia

Semi-finals

July 8/9
Belo Horizonte, Sao Paulo

3rd-place play-off

July 12
Brasilia

Final

July 13
Rio de Janeiro

CLUB WORLD CUP

Santos plot big date with Barcelona

Challenge to the crown...Barcelona may have Lionel Messi (left), but Santos believe Neymar will give him a run for his money if the clubs meet in the Club World Cup Final

The Club World Cup hardly needs any extra spice in South America, where it is already considered the highlight of the club calendar, with all the continent's teams desperate to have a crack at the winners of Europe's Champions League. But the inclusion of Neymar in the list of candidates for the FIFA World Player of the Year award has undoubtedly raised the stakes for December's competition in Japan.

And for the first time since the current version of the tournament was inaugurated in 2005, the club representing Europe does not have a monopoly on attacking superstars.

In Brazil, the 2011 tournament is being built up as an individual duel between Neymar and Lionel Messi, with a debate raging (surely prematurely) over whether the Santos wonderkid can already be considered to be on the same level as Barcelona's little Argentinian.

At club level a Club World Cup Final clash this year could be the only time for some while that the pair are on the same pitch as Neymar has just signed a new contract, putting him among the top-10 best-paid players in the world and designed to keep him in Brazil until 2014. Whether he stays that long is another matter, but in the short term there is no doubt this is a triumph for club president Luis Alvaro Ribeiro, who is up for re-election.

Of course, there is no guarantee that Messi and Neymar will meet in the Final. Last year's tournament stands out as a warning, especially to Santos, whose compatriots, Internacional, were beaten in the semi-finals by African champions TP Mazembe and therefore missed out on their chance of measuring themselves against Internazionale.

But assuming things go to form, and this year throws up a Europe versus South America Final, then as well as an intriguing match-up there will also be a huge contrast in attitudes towards the competition - caused not only by relative European indifference as opposed to a South American chip on the shoulder, but also by realities imposed by the clubs' respective fixture lists.

With Barcelona sweating on every dropped point in La Liga and also negotiating their way through the group stage of the Champions League, travelling to Japan is an afterthought. Santos, meanwhile, have effectively been on holiday.

As holders, their place in the 2012 Libertadores Cup is guaranteed, which left them with little incentive to perform consistently in the Brazilian championship. True, they have suffered with international call-ups to the Copa America and the World Youth Cup, not to mention various problems with injuries, but, unusually for a team coached by Muricy Ramalho, their defensive record has been poor, and occasionally they have needed a spurt of victories to keep them a safe distance above the relegation zone.

As it has turned out, the teams towards the top of the Brazilian table have slipped up so often that with just a few more wins Santos could have been fighting for the title. But this is little more than a minor frustration; the focus has always been on the Club World Cup.

Although Pele declined the offer of a cameo comeback as part of the playing staff, other audacious ideas did make it beyond the planning stage. Some of the players have been taught to speak enough Japanese in order to record messages in the language on the club website in an attempt to win the hearts of the local public. And Ramalho has spent hours studying Barcelona, coming up with conclusions which, if implemented, hold out the promise

of a contest which could finally spark global interest in what is still a fledgling competition.

"They play well against all types of football," says Ramalho. "No one has been able to cancel out what they do best.

"I concluded that since I also have special players at my disposition I'm going to get them to play. Let's see if they can enjoy themselves a little!"

These are brave words which, if sincere, run the risk of exposing a lack of pace at the heart of Ramalho's defence. But Santos do have the most talented squad any South American club has taken to the tournament in the seven years of the current format.

In previous years, Libertadores Cup winners tended to lose some of their stars between lifting the continental trophy and travelling to the Club World Cup, but this year, on paper at least, Santos are stronger now than when they claimed their third Libertadores title at the end of June.

The only first-choice player to have left is centre-forward Ze Eduardo, who contributed just one goal to the campaign, and he has been more than successfully replaced by Borges, a striker whose career has been uneven but whose talent is beyond question. By some distance the leading goalscorer in the Brazilian championship, Borges was handed his international debut just a few days short of his 31st birthday.

Another interesting newcomer is former under-20 international striker Alan Kardec, a more versatile player since his spell with Benfica. And the midfield has been strengthened with the acquisitions of talented all-rounders Henrique and Ibson.

Meanwhile, there has been plenty of time to clear up the injury problems of established stars such as Elano, left-back Leo and the playmaker Paulo Henrique Ganso, who has missed most of the last year but is key to the club's hopes and Neymar's best supply line.

Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of a Barcelona-Santos Final would be the possibility of Neymar dribbling through the opponents' high defensive line and Ramalho is almost licking his lips at the prospect.

"Currently Messi is by some distance the best," he concedes. "But I have no doubt Neymar will get there. Before long he'll be the best in the world. The two are similar, but Neymar is a bit more special. His style alternates the direction of the ball as he carries it, while Messi dribbles more in a straight line.

"Neymar is unpredictable. You don't find anyone in the world who does what he can with the ball.

"As I work with him, I know that Neymar can still keep on evolving."

And the Club World Cup is his first chance to grab the attention of a global audience.

Tim Vickery

Goals aplenty...Santos striker Borges

"Currently Messi is by some distance the best, but I have no doubt that Neymar will get there"

Santos coach Muricy Ramalho

Making plans...Ramalho, giving Elano instructions during the Libertadores Cup semi-final against Cerro Porteno of Paraguay, is relishing a clash with Barcelona in Japan

CLUB WORLD CUP
The teams

Al Sadd
(Asia)
The Qatari winners of the 2011 Asian Champions League, after a penalty shoot-out victory over Korea's Jeonbuk Motors. They have pursued an enthusiastic naturalisation process in recent years, allowing them to field a number of foreign-born, mostly Brazilian, players as Qataris in international matches. They have also spent money on bringing in players from Europe, including Senegalese international Mamadou Niang (ex-Marseille, Fenerbahce) and Ivory Coast midfielder Abdul Kader Keita (ex-Lille, Lyon, Galatasaray)
Coach Jorge Fossati, ex-Uruguay coach in his second spell in charge.
Key player Goalkeeper Mohamed Saqr made a series of crucial saves in the AFC Champions League Final shoot-out against Jeonbuk.

Auckland City
(Oceania)
The New Zealanders, who were comfortable winners of the Oceania Champions League, are definite outsiders but have enjoyed success in past competitions, having beaten Al Ahli and TP Mazembe in the UAE in 2009. A number of players featured in New Zealand's 2010 World Cup squad.
Coach Aaron McFarland and Ramon Tribulietx share the coaching duties.
Key player Ivan Vicelich, a veteran defender with experience of playing in Europe.

Barcelona
(Europe)
The European champions, who blew Manchester United away with an outstanding performance at Wembley last May, are bidding for a second world club title to go with the trophy won two years ago in Abu Dhabi. It remains to be seen how strong a team coach Pep Guardiola will field in Japan. Already this season, Barcelona are behind Real Madrid in the Spanish league and Guardiola may want to rest his key players.
Coach Opinion in Spain is divided over whether Pep Guardiola is an exceptional coach or just a coach who has been fortunate to have an exceptional group of players.
Key player Lionel Messi, of course. The little Argentinian is on course to win another World Player title in December after a string on brilliant performances for Barca, not least against Manchester United in the Champions League Final in May, when he scored a superb goal in his side's 3-1 victory.

Esperance
(Africa)
The African club champions for the second time (the first was in 1994) following their victory over Morocco's Wydad Casablanca, have plenty of attacking potential, notably with Cameroon striker Yannick N'Djeng and Tunisia international Oussama Darragi.
Coach Nabil Maaloul.
Key man Oussama Darragi, talismanic captain and playmaker, who was not fully fit for the African Champions League Final against Wydad Casablanca.

Hot shot...Monterrey's Suazo

Monterrey
(CONCACAF)
The Mexicans won their first continental title earlier this year after beating Real Salt Lake in the Final of the CONCACAF Champions League. With plenty of talent in the squad – including forward Aldo De Nigris, midfielder Luis Ernesto Perez, former Lyon midfielder Cesar Delgado and Ecuador international Walter Ayovi – they should prove too much for their opponents in the quarter-final.
Coach Victor Manuel Vucetich, who recently turned down the Mexico national team job.
Key player Chile international Humberto Suazo is a key source of firepower.

SCHEDULE

The 2011 Club World Cup returns to Japan after two years in the United Arab Emirates

Play-off	
December 8 2011	
Hosts v Auckland City	**Toyota (match 1)**
Quarter-finals	
December 11	
Winner 1 v Team A*	**Toyota (match 2)**
Team B* v Team C*	**Toyota (match 3)**
5th-place play-off	
December 14	
Loser 2 v Loser 3	**Toyota**
Semi-finals	
December 14	
Winner 2 v Santos	**Toyota (match 5)**
15 December 2011	
Winner 3 v Barcelona	**Yokohama (match 6)**
3rd-place play-off	
December 18	
Loser 5 v Loser 6	**Yokohama**
Final	
December 18	
Winner 5 v Winner 6	**Yokohama**

* Team A/Team B/Team C to be decided from Al Sadd/Esperance/Monterrey, draw due to be made November 17

Santos
(South America)
The South American club champions head to Japan with the unusual situation of having kept hold of most of their star talent following last summer's Libertadores Cup victory. Lots of bright young players, but also experience in the shape of international midfielder Elano.
Coach Muricy Ramalho is strong on organisation, which creates a solid platform for attacking talent such as Neymar to shine.
Key man Neymar, a bright talent but already burdened with huge expectation ahead of Brazil's hosting of the 2014 World Cup.

Hosts
The winners of 2011 J.League, to be decided by December 3, the final day of the season, will represent Japan. With three games of the season remaining, only three teams – Kashiwa Reysol (65 points), Gamba Osaka (63) and Nagoya Grampus Eight (62) – could finish in top spot.

CLUB WORLD CUP PREVIOUS WINNERS

WORLD CLUB CUP/INTERCONTINENTAL CUP

The European club champions played the South American club champions, initially over two legs. (*the European champions did not always accept their invitation)

1960
Penarol 0 Real Madrid 0;
Real Madrid 5 Penarol 1

1961
Benfica 1 Penarol 0;
Penarol 5 Benfica 0
Play-off: Penarol 2 Benfica 1

1962
Santos 3 Benfica 2;
Benfica 2 Santos 5

1963
Milan 4 Santos 2;
Santos 4 Milan 2
Play-off: Santos 1 Milan 0

1964
Independiente 1 Internazionale 0;
Internazionale 2 Independiente 0
Play-off: Internazionale 1 Independiente 0 (aet)

1965
Internazionale 3 Independiente 0;
Independiente 0 Internazionale 0

1966
Penarol 2 Real Madrid 0;
Real Madrid 0 Penarol 2

1967
Celtic 1 Racing Club 0;
Racing Club 2 Celtic 1
Play-off: Racing Club 1 Celtic 0

1968
Estudiantes 1 Manchester United 0;
Manchester United 1 Estudiantes 1

1969
Milan 3 Estudiantes 0;
Estudiantes 2 Milan 1

1970
Estudiantes 2 Feyenoord 2;
Feyenoord 1 Estudiantes 0

1971
*Panathinaikos 1 Nacional 1;
Nacional 2 Panathinaikos 1

1972
Independiente 1 Ajax 1;
Ajax 3 Independiente 0

1973
Independiente 1 *Juventus 0

1974
Independiente 1 *Atletico Madrid 0;
Atletico Madrid 2 Independiente 0

1975
Not contested

1976
Bayern Munich 2 Cruzeiro 0;
Cruzeiro 0 Bayern Munich 0

1977
Boca Juniors 2 *Borussia M'gladbach 2;
Borussia M'gladbach 0 Boca Juniors 3

1978
Not contested

1979
*Malmo 0 Olimpia 1;
Olimpia 2 Malmo 1

TOYOTA CUP

From 1980, the tournament was played as a one-off match in Tokyo

1980
Nacional 1 Nottingham Forest 0

1981
Flamengo 3 Liverpool 0

1982
Penarol 2 Aston Villa 0

1983
Gremio 2 Hamburg 1 (aet)

1984
Independiente 1 Liverpool 0

1985
Juventus 2 Argentinos Juniors 2
(aet, Juventus 4-2 on pens)

1986
River Plate 1 Steaua Bucharest 0

1987
Porto 2 Penarol 1 (aet)

1988
Nacional 2 PSV 2
(aet, Nacional 7-6 on pens)

1989
Milan 1 At Nacional Medellin 0 (aet)

1990
Milan 3 Olimpia 0

1991
Red Star Belgrade 3 Colo Colo 0

1992
Sao Paulo 2 Barcelona 1

1993
Sao Paulo 3 Milan 2

1994
Velez Sarsfield 2 Milan 0

1995
Ajax 0 Gremio 0
(aet, Ajax 4-3 on pens)

1996
Juventus 1 River Plate 0

1997
Borussia Dortmund 2 Cruzeiro 0

1998
Real Madrid 2 Vasco da Gama 1

1999
Manchester United 1 Palmeiras 0

2000
Boca Juniors 2 Real Madrid 1

2001
Bayern Munich 1 Boca Juniors 0 (aet)

2002
Real Madrid 2 Olimpia 0

2003
Boca Juniors 1 Milan 1
(aet, Boca Juniors 3-1 on pens)

2004
Porto 0 Once Caldas 0
(aet, Porto 8-7 on pens)

FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP

The competition was first held in 2000 and then revived in 2005, when it replaced the Intercontinental/World Club Cup. It was expanded to include teams from Africa, Asia, CONCACAF and Oceania

2000*
Corinthians 0 Vasco da Gama 0
(Corinthians 4-3 on pens)

2005**
Sao Paulo 1 Liverpool 0

2006**
Internacional 1 Barcelona 0

2007**
Milan 4 Boca Juniors 2

2008**
Manchester Utd 1 LDU Quito 0

2009***
Barcelona 2 Estudiantes 1 (aet)

2010***
Internazionale 3 TP Mazembe 0

* Played in Brazil
** Played in Japan
*** Played in United Arab Emirates

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Esperance claim the prize

Holding on...Esperance's Hicheri (no29) get to grips with Wydad's Ahmed Ajeddou

Tunisia's Esperance are club champions of Africa for a second time after beating Morocco's Wydad Casablanca 1-0 in the second leg of the Champions League Final after a goalless draw in the first leg a week earlier.

Ghana defender Harrison Afful scored the decisive goal midway through the first half, darting down the right flank, cutting inside and unleashing an unstoppable left-foot shot that flew past stand-in goalkeeper Yassine Bounou.

Wydad were reduced to 10 men in first-half stoppage time when defender Mourad El Massane was dismissed after an off-the-ball incident with giant Cameroonian striker Yannick Ndjeng.

Esperance last won the competition in 1994 and have finished runners-up three times since, most recently when they were humiliated 6-1 on aggregate last year by TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The closeness of the decider was no surprise as Esperance and Wydad also drew twice in the group phase: 2-2 in Casablanca and 0-0 in Rades on the outskirts of the Tunisian capital.

Also African champions once before, Wydad gave a Champions League debut to 20-year-old Bounou after veteran captain Nadir Lamyaghri dislocated his shoulder while training.

The match followed a predictable early course with the hosts pressing without any reward. Afful was a constant menace coming forward and soon after breaking the deadlock he surged towards the penalty area again and set up midfielder and captain Oussama Darragi, who blazed wide from a good position.

Wydad striker Fabrice Ondama should have equalised after 32 minutes when he found himself one-on-one with Moez Ben Cherifia, but the goalkeeper became an instant hero when he blocked the ball with his foot.

Ondama cut a lonely attacking figure during the second half, while caution was the Esperance keyword as they sought to avoid another Final failure. But there was no slip up this time as they comfortably contained what Wydad threw at them.

The first leg had ended 0-0 in Casablanca a week earlier after Esperance held out against a more attack-minded Wydad side.

Wydad had dominated the first half, forcing four corners in the first 45 minutes, while Esperance had been content to sit back in defence and had no corner or even a shot on target in the first half.

Esperance's Ben Cherifia was forced to make a fine save late in the first half as Wydad piled on the pressure. However, in the second half the Tunisians opened up and late on with the introduction of skipper Darragi they created a few panicky moments inside the box of the Moroccans.

Two minutes from full time, Khaled Korbi's free-kick from just outside the box was pushed away for a corner by goalkeeper and skipper Lamyaghri.

And from the corner, big central defender Walid Hicheri's header from inside the box was only just wide of the target.

Wajdi Bouazzi also blasted wide for Esperance, leaving them requiring a victory in the return leg on home soil.

Esperance share the record for the most appearances in the African Champions League since the competition changed format in 1997 but their only previous success had come 17 years ago when the continent's top club event was still played as a knockout competition.

They were runners-up in 1999, 2000 and last year, when ugly scenes of crowd violence followed the controversial loss to TP Mazembe. They have also been beaten semi-finalists three times in the last decade.

Wydad reached the Final after a goalless 1-0 aggregate victory over Enyimba of Nigeria, while Esperance saw off Al Hilal of Sudan in their semi-final. They won 2-0 at home to ensure a 3-0 aggregate triumph. The second leg was played behind closed doors in Tunis after crowd violence in the group stages.

Mark Gleeson

Victors...goalkeeper Ben Cherifia (left) and skipper Darragi celebrate Esperance winning the Champions League title in Tunis

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Al Sadd end Korean dominance

Living it up...Al Sadd goalkeeper Saqr is hoisted by his jubilant team-mates after his penalty shoot-out heroics in the Final

The east's five-year dominance of the Asian Champions League came to an end as Qatar's Al Sadd – complete with their legion of foreign-born stars – picked up the 2011 title with a penalty shoot-out victory over former champions Jeonbuk Motors.

The win, secured from the spot by Algerian midfielder Nadir Belhadj following a 2-2 draw at the end of extra-time, comes with a place in the Club World Cup as Asia's representative in the Japan-based finals that have a first prize of almost £1million.

Perhaps just as importantly, it is the first victory of any significance for any team from the oil-and-gas-rich nation since the country was awarded the hosting rights for the 2022 World Cup finals in December last year.

Brawl...Al Sadd and Suwon Bluewings

The make up of the Al Sadd starting line-up reflects the current state of the game in Qatar as only one of their side – former Asian player of the year Khalfan Ibrahim – was born in the Gulf state.

Competition rules allow for four foreign players – under the 3+1 rule teams can field three players from outside Asia and one non-national from within the confederation – but Al Sadd's side also boasted a further six players who had been naturalised in recent years.

That policy – which has seen a significant influx of foreign-born players into the Qatari game at all levels – is indicative of the approach being adopted by a country that is home to 1.75million people, of which around only 300,000 are native-born Qataris. It is sure to accelerate further in the run-up to the 2022 finals.

While Belhadj scored the winning penalty, it was 31-year-old goalkeeper Mohamed Saqr who emerged as the hero, denying Joenbuk on several occasions in the dying minutes before keeping out penalties from Kim Dong-chan and Park Won-jae to secure Al Sadd's second continental title.

"I am very happy for everybody, but especially Mohamed Saqr because when I came back to the club in July this year many people told me Mohamed Saqr can't play any more," said Al Sadd's Uruguayan coach Jorge Fossati.

"They said that he was too old. But he was fantastic, although it is not the only game he has played fantastically in this competition.

"Jeonbuk did not lose the penalty shoot-out, Mohamed Saqr won it. He made an extraordinary save in the last minute and he showed everyone he can play and that he can continue to play."

While Saqr was certainly instrumental in Al Sadd's win, the club also had a significant amount of good fortune throughout the tournament. They won just twice in the group stage to progress to the knockout round, while they reached the semi-finals despite losing twice to Sepahan.

However, the Iranians were judged to have fielded an ineligible player in the first leg and a 1-0 win was turned into a 3-0 loss by the Asian Football Confederation's disciplinary committee, enough to ensure a 4-2 aggregate win.

Al Sadd found themselves at the centre of more controversy in the semis when a full scale brawl overshadowed their 2-0 first-leg victory over Suwon Bluewings before they went on to secure a narrow aggregate win despite losing 1-0 in the second leg.

In the Final they not only had to overcome Jeonbuk but also the vociferous home crowd in Jeonju after the AFC decided this year's Final should be hosted by one of the finalists instead of a neutral venue, as had been the case in each of the last two editions of the competition.

Al Sadd's victory was the first by a team that had to progress via the tournament's qualifying rounds and it was the first time since the second of the back-to-back title wins by Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad in 2005 that a team from the east of Asia had not won the title.

It was Jeonbuk who had ended Al Ittihad's run and Choi Kang-hee coached that team to that victory in 2005, when they defeated unfancied Syrian side Al Karamah in the Final. And Choi was looking all set for a repeat performance when his side's Brazilian midfielder Eninho scored with a fine free-kick in the 18th minute.

However, an own goal by Sim Woo-yeon pulled Al Sadd level despite the dominance of the home side and midway through the second half Abdul Kader Keita gave Fossati's side an unlikely lead.

With victory in sight – and after Saqr had made several vital saves – Al Sadd let their lead slip in injury time as Lee Sung-hyun headed home to take the game into extra-time, during which neither side was able to find the back of the net.

The penalty shoot-out yielded the win the Qataris had sought, leaving Choi distraught and admitting: "It is frustrating to lose in such a way. We played at home in front of our own fans and we wanted to show the power of the K-League, but I am afraid it was not possible."

Michael Church

FINLAND

HJK far too good for the rest

Still going strong...veteran Jari Litmanen scored the winner in the Finnish Cup Final

The 2011 Veikkausliiga season had two main narratives: total dominance by HJK Helsinki on the field and the ongoing, slow-motion car crash of the match-fixing investigation off it.

HJK put their financial muscle to good effect in assembling a powerful squad that steamrollered lesser sides during the season, winning a league-and-cup double even though Rafinha, Dawda Bah and Teemu Pukki left in the August transfer window.

They scored 86 goals over the course of the league season and hit four or more on 12 separate occasions. In a blistering June run HJK scored 25 times in six games, conceding just once and picking up maximum points. They finished with three players among the league's top-10 goalscorers – including the aforementioned Pukki, who missed a third of the season after his sale.

HJK even had space for a 40-year-old Jari Litmanen to make several cameo appearances from the substitutes' bench and his crucial goal in the Finnish Cup Final against KuPS was surely one of the last important goals in a remarkable career that has spanned four decades.

There was a mixed bag of results in Europe, where KuPS Kuopio lost to Romanian outfit Gaz Metan Medias, Honka Espoo meekly surrendered to Hacken of Sweden and TPS Turku went out to Westerlo, before HJK beat Schalke 2-0 in the home leg of their Europa League play-off. Although they lost the second leg 6-1 in Gelsenkirchen, the victory in Helsinki and Pukki's performance – he scored all three goals – caused a stir in a country used to club sides meekly losing in Europe.

Pukki's performance impressed the German side so much that they signed him in a move that raised eyebrows in Finland after the striker's difficult two years starved of first-team football at Sevilla, However, a large fee and the promise of first-team chances swayed Pukki and HJK.

Inter Turku will return to Europe next year after finishing as runners-up, a whopping 24 points behind HJK, while JJK Jyvaskyla took third place and will make their continental debut.

Haka surpassed very low expectations and finished comfortably mid-table, while TPS Turku produced a confident 17-year-old left-back in Jere Uronen despite finishing out of the reckoning, and Honka Espoo seemed to go backwards amid financial difficulties.

Off the pitch, almost everything that could go wrong did go wrong.

The pre-season was dominated by money troubles that eventually saw the departure of two clubs from the top flight before a ball had even been kicked.

AC Oulu were denied a league licence because of their finances and they went to play in the first division, while Tampere United were thrown out of all competitions over suspicions that they were involved in money laundering after they accepted €300,000 from Exclusive Sports Ltd, a Singaporean company.

Last spring it looked as though Finnish football would be engulfed in scandal, after Wilson Raj Perumal, a Singaporean match-fixer, was found to have several RoPS Rovaniemi players' phone numbers on speed dial. He was eventually convicted, along with seven Zambians and two Georgians, in a match-fixing trial. Dominic and Donewell Yobe, two Zambians who played for AC Oulu in 2010, were convicted in a separate trial of taking bribes.

More legal difficulties came for first division side Popa, who are owned and captained by Antti Sumiala. In November it emerged that they had also taken money from Perumal and a police investigation is ongoing. Popa's future is uncertain, but the prognosis is not good.

Tampere United are in all probability extinct, although a fan-founded club could start next season in the sixth division. RoPS were relegated with a largely Finnish team after most of their foreigners were sacked and convicted. AC Oulu failed to get promotion from the first division.

The 12 remaining clubs played each other three times, with the season condensed into a shorter time span because of the delays around Tampere United's appeals.

Clubs had demanded more games to help with cash flow, but crowds shrunk to an average of just 2,160 and finances were not helped by Urho TV, the league's broadcaster, withholding rights fees. Their reasoning was that the league had lost two clubs in big media markets – Oulu and Tampere are the sixth and third largest municipalities in the country respectively – and that the value of the league had diminished.

Egan Richardson

For final league table, see page 102

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
TEEMU PUKKI (HJK Helsinki)
Now in Germany with Schalke, his European performances showed a class not seen in any Finnish forward since before injuries disrupted Mikael Forssell's career. The national team's effectiveness will depend on him remaining fit and in form over the next decade.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
ALEXANDER RING (HJK Helsinki)
The young midfielder lived up to the pre-season hype and grew in stature as the season progressed, anchoring the HJK midfield and breaking into the national team.

COACH OF THE SEASON
ANTTI MUURINEN (HJK Helsinki)
His old-fashioned, endearing politeness, which has brought mockery from some players, fans and media down the years, makes his current renaissance all the more enjoyable.

Finland's future...Pukki

ICELAND
KR Reykjavik do the double

Running from the beginning of May to early October, Iceland's longest-ever season certainly wasn't short on excitement.

When it was all over, it was KR Reykjavik who emerged victorious on all fronts, the capital club sweeping all before them to lift not only their first championship title in eight years, but also a league and cup double – the first team to do so since 1999, when KR themselves last achieved the feat.

Having led the race for most of the season, only a slight stutter in the run-in ever put the outcome in any doubt, and the title was secured with a game to spare. Runners-up were FH Hafnarfjordur, followed by IBV Vestmannaeyjar, who had mounted a strong challenge only to falter in the last few games. IBV coach Heimir Hallgrimsson stepped down at the end of the season and will now assist new national boss Lars Lagerback, who takes over from Olafur Johannesson in January.

Surprise package of the year were Stjarnan, whose free-flowing style saw them finish as the league's top scorers, with 51 goals in 22 matches, and narrowly miss out on a European spot after losing 4-3 to outgoing champions Breidablik on the last day of the season.

Capital club Valur finished a disappointing fifth in their centenary year, while Breidablik breathed a massive sigh of relief at eventually finishing sixth. Not only did they never remotely threaten to repeat last year's triumph, they entered the final day facing the threat of becoming the first club in Icelandic history to suffer the ignominy of relegation as defending champions.

With top-flight status secured before the last day, Fylkir finished seventh, although coach Olafur Thordarson left the club from the east Reykjavik suburbs as soon as the season was over, citing a lack of funds to spend in the transfer market as the reason behind his departure. He immediately moved the short distance across the capital to become the fourth coach this year to take the helm at Vikingur, who finished rock bottom and were relegated.

Since three points were first awarded for a win in 1984, Fram had escaped the drop on the last day of the season seven times and Grindavik five, and both managed to do so once again as Thor made an immediate return to the second tier. Thor can, however, consider themselves unlucky to have lost 2-0 to KR in the Icelandic Cup Final, after striking the bar no less than five times.

Thor and Vikingur will be replaced in the Urvalsdeild by IA Akranes, who celebrate a return to the top flight after an absence of three years, and Selfoss, back at the first time of asking following last year's relegation.

KR will play in the Champions League next season, with FH and IBV in the Europa League, along with Thor, the first Icelandic club from outside the top flight to compete on the European stage.

Rab Christie

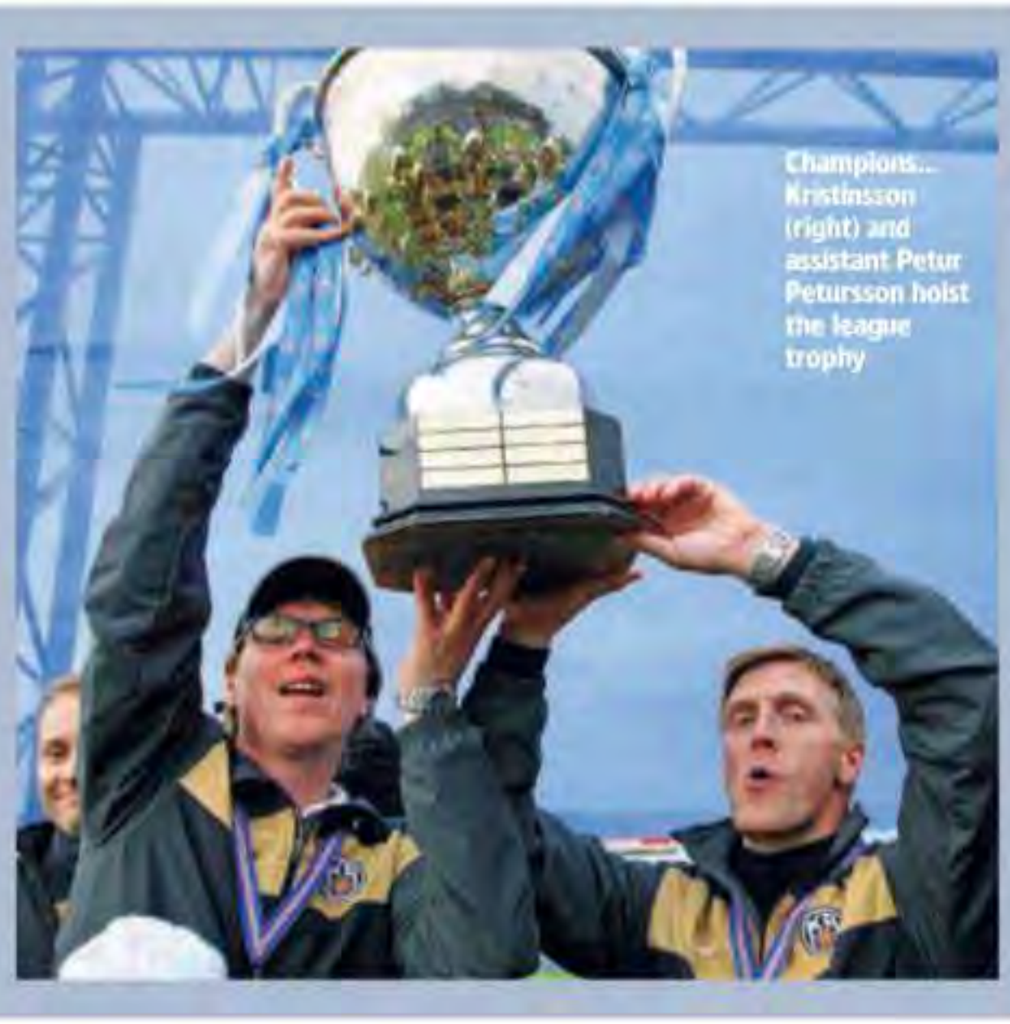
For final league table, see page 103

Big game hunters...KR's Oskar Orn Hauksson (stripes) takes on FH defender Tommy Fredsgaard-Nielsen in the top of the table clash

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
HANNES HALLDORSSON
(KR Reykjavik)
Ever present following a pre-season move from city rivals Fram. Made his international debut as Iceland beat Cyprus 1-0 in September.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
THORARINN VALDIMARSSON
(IBV Vestmannaeyjar)
Powerful midfielder who helped IBV to third place and was also part of the Iceland side that reached the Euro Under-21 finals.

COACH OF THE SEASON
RUNAR KRISTINSSON
(KR Reykjavik)
Did the double in his first full season in charge of a club for which he played without ever winning the title.


Champions... Kristinsson (right) and assistant Petur Petursson hoist the league trophy

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
Title caps Rovers' historic season

Shamrock Rovers retained the League of Ireland championship for the first time since the 1980s and won a record 17th title at the end of an historic season in which they became the first Irish club to qualify for the group stage of the Europa League.

Rovers also won the all-Ireland Setanta Cup for the first time, beating Dundalk 2-0 in the Final, which means that their last Europa League game, against Tottenham Hotspur in Tallaght on December 15, will be their 61st match of a long and tiring season.

"I have achieved more than I thought I would in my three years with the club," says manager Michael O'Neill. "The first year we came up a bit short, but last year we won the league and got to the FAI Cup Final. We brought in a few new players this year and were definitely stronger. The European adventure was amazing.

"The club has won the FAI Cup a record 24 times and, while I would like to win the FAI Cup with Rovers, going out of the competition this year was probably a blessing in disguise – otherwise we would have been forced to play too many games in the last few weeks of the season."

Despite reports linking him to the vacant Northern Ireland job, O'Neill plans to stay with Rovers and bid for a hat-trick of titles, adding: "I have had initial discussions with the board and now I need to sit down and finalise plans for next season. We are already looking at new players to add to the squad for next year."

Sligo Rovers, who finished second in the league, beat Rovers in the quarter-finals on their way to winning the FAI Cup, beating Shelbourne on penalties in the Final. Derry City, who were promoted back to the Premier Division last year, won the League Cup, beating Cork City 1-0 in the Final. They also finished a creditable third in the league, testimony once again to manager Stephen Kenny. St Patrick's Athletic finished fourth, but Pat's supporters will probably be more disappointed that their FAI Cup woes continue. Fifty years on from their last FAI Cup success, in 1961, they got an easy run this year but fell in the semi-finals.

On the same night that Rovers clinched the league title, their old Dublin rivals Shelbourne, who like Rovers were formed in the Ringsend area of the city over 100 years ago, clinched promotion back to the top flight. Shels had been languishing in the First Division for the past five seasons after being relegated due to financial irregularities.

There was no automatic relegation this season as the league is being increased from 10 to 12 clubs next year. First Division champions Cork City were promoted with Shelbourne, while third-place Monaghan United beat Galway United 5-1 on aggregate in the promotion/relegation play-off.

Galway, who lost most of their players during the summer due to wage cuts, won only one of their 36 league games and conceded a record 115 goals during the season. The only good news was that club president Michael D Higgins was elected president of the Irish Republic in October.

Sean Creedon

For final league table, see page 105

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
DAN MURRAY
(Shamrock Rovers)
Born in England, he joined Rovers from Cork City at the start of the 2010 campaign and has now captained the club to back-to-back league titles.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
EOIN DOYLE
(Sligo Rovers)
Previously with Dublin clubs Cherry Orchard, Crumlin, Shelbourne and Shamrock Rovers before moving to Sligo in July 2009, manager Paul Cook used him as a lone striker this season and he scored a club record 20 league goals.

MANAGER OF THE SEASON
MICHAEL O'NEILL
(Shamrock Rovers)
The former Northern Ireland international, who joined from Scottish club Brechin City in December 2008, has restored Rovers to the top of the pile.

European adventure...O'Neill

Happy Hoops...the championship trophy is on display as Shamrock run out for their last league game of the season, against Galway

Pic credit: www.inpho.ie

SWEDEN
Helsingborg sweep the board

The Allsvenskan title changed hands for the eighth successive season as Helsingborg won their first championship since 1999. The side from southern Sweden completed a clean sweep of domestic silverware, beating Kalmar 3-1 in the Cup Final to add to the Super Cup they won earlier in the season as they became the first club to win the three Swedish trophies in the same year.

Helsingborg had run champions Malmo close last season, only to fade in the final strait, after which coach Bo Nilsson stepped down.

A number of big-name replacements were mooted, including Norway's Age Hareide and former international Roland Andersson, but in the end the club opted for a low-key appointment in Conny Karlsson, who had most recently been in charge of second-tier Assyrian.

Karlsson proved to be an astute choice and, as in the previous campaign, Helsingborg set a brisk early pace, winning their first four matches. This time, however, they did not fade, setting a momentum that nearest challengers AIK and Elfsborg could not match.

They sealed the title with three rounds remaining following a 3-1 victory away at GAIS while closest rivals AIK were beaten by Helsingborg's local rivals Malmo.

Helsingborg's success was all the more impressive because it was achieved despite a number of injuries and the mid-season transfers of several key players. Although former international Erik Edman returned to his former club after an extended spell in Holland and England, they lost forwards Rasmus Jonsson and Alexander Gerndt, to Wolfsburg and Utrecht respectively, while centre-back Markus Holgersson joined Utrecht.

Flying...Malmo's Ivo Pekalski (left) brings down Rachid Bouaouzan but no one could stop his all-conquering Helsingborg team-mates

Goalkeeper and captain Par Hansson was a crucial steadying influence, while South African midfielder May Mahlangu proved to be an outstanding acquisition. His tireless running and clever play earned comparisons with Jonas Thern, Sweden's midfield general of the 1990s, who is the father of current Helsingborg midfielder Simon Thern.

While Helsingborg deservedly swept the board, Malmo continued the trend of recent champions struggling to defend their title. Despite holding on to most of their 2010 title-winning team, and the signing of last season's top scorer Mathias Ranegie in August, Malmo struggled to compete at home and in Europe.

Rikard Norling replaced Roland Nilsson, who joined Danish champions Copenhagen, and injuries also took their toll. Scottish champions Rangers were beaten in the Champions League third qualifying round before a heavy defeat to Dinamo Zagreb, and they then lost their first four group games in the Europa League.

The closest challenge to Helsingborg came from an unlikely source in AIK. The 2009 champions had flirted with relegation last season after losing a raft of key players, but bounced back under new coach Andreas Alm. Sierra Leonean duo Mohamed and Ibrahim Teteh Bangura formed an impressive partnership before moving on to Celtic and Bursaspor respectively.

AIK will play in next season's Europa League qualifying rounds, along with third-placed Elfsborg, who were consistent challengers but could not sparkle at the finish.

Gothenburg side GAIS were one of the stories of the season, playing some exceptional football and defying the doom-mongers who had predicted their relegation.

Hacken benefitted from the goals of Mathias Ranegie before his big-money move to Malmo.

At the bottom of the table, Halmstad's experiment with Spanish coach Pep Clotet Ruiz proved disastrous. The champions in 2000 lost 22 times in the league and propped up the table from beginning to end. They were relegated along with Trelleborg, who collapsed in the second half of the season.

Moving the other way were Atvidaberg and GIF Sundsvall.

John Holmesdale

For final league table, see page 106

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
MAY MAHLANGU
(Helsingborg)
The 22-year-old emerged as the star of his side's campaign after the sale of several key players.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
MERVAN CELIK
(GAIS)
Attacking midfielder who excelled in GAIS' excellent campaign. Born in Gothenburg of Turkish parentage but already established as a star of Sweden's under-21 side.

COACH OF THE SEASON
CONNY KARLSSON
(Helsingborg)
Replaced Bo Nilsson a year ago after spells with a number of smaller clubs.

Inspired...Karlsson

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
APOEL shake up the group stage

Another upset...Brazilian striker Ailton (no8) celebrates putting APOEL ahead against Porto in Nicosia with his seventh goal in European competition this season

While most of the Champions League groups have so far gone to form and seedings, Group G has proved the exception, with Cypriot champions APOEL Nicosia confounding all expectations to top the standings after four matches.

APOEL currently top the group with eight points, ahead of Russian champions Zenit St Petersburg (seven), last season's Europa League winners Porto (four) and Ukrainian champions Shakhtar Donetsk (two). Their 2-1 home win over Porto in November has assured APOEL of at least third place in the group – and European football in the spring for the first time in the club's history.

APOEL's only previous experience in the Champions League group stage was not a happy one as they failed to win a match two years ago and finished bottom of a group that contained Porto, Chelsea and Atletico Madrid.

Since then they have benefitted from Michel Platini's determination to allow more teams from small and middle-ranked countries into the group stages. UEFA's pairing of top-ranked teams in the fourth qualifying round (Udinese were beaten by Arsenal) has cleared the path for the likes of Viktoria Plzen, Dinamo Zagreb and APOEL to reach the group stage. And energised by qualifying-round victories over Skenderbeu Korce (Albania), Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia) and Wisla Krakow (Poland), they hit the ground running in the group stage, beating Zenit at home, picking up draws at Shakhtar and Porto, and then delighting fans with an injury-time winner over Porto.

As the outsiders in a tough group, APOEL coach Ivan Jovanovic has been content to play a waiting game, with a patient counter-attacking plan that makes the most of his many imports.

Despite their Champions League adventure two years ago, APOEL have splashed little money on big-name players. They do have a Kaka on their books, but he is the Brazilian defender who played for Braga in their Europa League campaign last season, rather than the more famous namesake at Real Madrid. Argentinian forward Esteban Solari is the brother of former Real Madrid midfielder Santiago Solari and a member of a famous footballing family – his uncle is Jorge Solari, who played

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In control...APOEL's Jovanovic

for Argentina at the 1966 World Cup and whose daughter is married to former Argentina star Fernando Redondo.

Portuguese midfielder Nuno Morais, who was at Chelsea under Jose Mourinho but never made the grade, has carved out a career for himself in Cyprus. Another Portuguese midfielder, former Benfica youth product Helio Pinto, has played an important role alongside Morais.

But the star of the campaign so far has been Ailton, a Brazilian who made waves in Denmark with Copenhagen before switching to APOEL in the summer of 2010. With four goals in the qualifying rounds to add to his three in the group stage, he is the competition's overall top scorer (although Bayern Munich's Mario Gomez, with five goals in four games, is top scorer in the group phase).

Constantinos Charalambidis is one of the few Cypriot players to feature regularly in APOEL's starting line-up. Instead, Jovanovic has recruited from Greek football, where the likes of Gustavo Manduca and Marcelo Oliveira of Brazil and Bosnian defender Sanel Jahic had been playing.

Jovanovic is a Serb who enjoyed a modest playing career in Greece before embarking on a coaching career in the region. His experience of European competition is limited, so reaching the last 16 of this season's competition would be a quite stunning achievement.

Although they could still come unstuck against Zenit and Shakhtar, APOEL can be forgiven for sneaking a peak at the other groups and wondering who they might face in February.

Barcelona and Real Madrid have already qualified for knockout phase, both with four consecutive victories, but others have yet to confirm their presence in the round of 16.

Bayern Munich are in pole position in Group A, where they have only dropped points with a 1-1 draw at Napoli. The real battle is for second place between Manchester City and Napoli, who meet in the next round of matches.

City's debut in the competition has been overshadowed by Carlos Tevez's behaviour on the substitutes' bench during the 2-0 defeat in Munich, but their campaign was galvanised by a Sergio Aguero winner in injury time at home to Villarreal.

Villarreal, without the injured Giuseppe Rossi, have so far endured a miserable campaign.

In Group B, Internazionale recovered from a shock defeat at home to Trabzonspor in their opening group game to record three straight wins under new coach Claudio Ranieri.

Manchester United have endured a few wobbles in Group C, notably when trailing 3-2 to Basle at Old Trafford before salvaging a point with a late Ashley Young header in an extraordinary game. However, home and away wins over Romania's Otelul have kept their campaign on track.

Benfica's 2-0 win in Basle has kept the Portuguese side on level pegging with United.

In, Group D, Real Madrid have enjoyed a 100 per cent record, while second-place Ajax have impressed with home and away wins over Dynamo Zagreb, but Lyon have struggled.

In Group E, Chelsea have recorded comfortable wins over Bayer Leverkusen and Genk but still require points from their final two games, away at Leverkusen and home to Valencia to progress. Valencia and Leverkusen both retain serious hopes of qualifying for the knockout phase.

Arsenal have not been entirely convincing in Group F, where late goals – an Ivan Perisic equaliser for Borussia Dortmund and an Aaron Ramsey winner in Marseille – have kept the positions tight. Dortmund's poor away form (defeats at Olympiakos and Marseille) should ease Arsenal's passage to the group stages.

In Group H, Barcelona have entertained with 13 goals in four games, making them top scorers so far in the group stages.

John Holmesdale

High hopes...Adil Rami of Valencia (right) and Bayer Leverkusen's Andre Schurrle still have their sights set on the knockout stage

ESM TEAM OF THE MONTH OCTOBER 2011

European Sports Media

HOW IT WORKS

Every month, journalists from each member of the European Sports Media group select their first XI based on the best individual performances from Europe's top competitions. For details of how each ESM member voted, visit worldsoccer.com/esm11

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SEASON RANKINGS

Cumulative votes through the season

GOALKEEPERS

Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich)	11 votes
Iker Casillas (Real Madrid)	1
Joe Hart (Manchester City)	1
Javi Varas (Sevilla)	1
Salvatore Sirigu (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Ter Stegen (Bor M'Gladbach)	1
Victor Valdes (Barcelona)	1
Tolga Zengin (Trabzonspor)	1
Ron-Robert Zieler (Hanover)	1

DEFENDERS

Holger Badstuber (Bayern Munich)	7
Dani Alves (Barcelona)	6
Vincent Kompany (Manchester City)	6
Daniel Van Buyten (Bayern Munich)	6
Marcelo (Real Madrid)	5
Patrice Evra (Manchester Utd)	3
Phil Jones (Manchester Utd)	3
Thiago Silva (Milan)	3
Andre Santos (Arsenal)	2
Mats Hummels (Borussia Dortmund)	2
Philipp Lahm (Bayern Munich)	2
Gerard Pique (Barcelona)	2
Rafinha (Bayern Munich)	2
John Terry (Chelsea)	2
Nemanja Vidic (Manchester United)	2
Alvaro Arbeloa (Real Madrid)	1
Henri Bedimo (Montpellier)	1
Jose Bosingwa (Chelsea)	1
Ricardo Carvalho (Real Madrid)	1
Paulo Jorge (APOEL Nicosia)	1
Aleksandar Kolarov (Manchester City)	1
Diego Lugano (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Michel Bastos (Lyon)	1
Pepe (Real Madrid)	1
Lukasz Pisczek (Borussia Dortmund)	1
Adil Rami (Valencia)	1
Sergio Ramos (Real Madrid)	1
Chris Smalling (Manchester United)	1
Nicolas Spolli (Catania)	1

MIDFIELDERS

Franck Ribery (Bayern Munich)	8
David Silva (Manchester City)	7
Xavi (Barcelona)	7
Cesc Fabregas (Barcelona)	6
Nani (Manchester United)	4
Bastian Schweinsteiger (Bayern Munich)	4
Javier Pastore (Paris Saint-Germain)	3
Andrea Pirlo (Juventus)	3
Mesut Ozil (Real Madrid)	2
Andres Iniesta (Barcelona)	2
Charlie Adam (Liverpool)	1
Kevin-Prince Boateng (Milan)	1
Angel Di Maria (Real Madrid)	1
Kaka (Real Madrid)	1
Toni Kroos (Bayern Munich)	1
Frank Lampard (Chelsea)	1
Ezequiel Lavezzi (Napoli)	1
Dries Mertens (PSV Eindhoven)	1
Jon Obi Mikel (Chelsea)	1
Samir Nasri (Manchester City)	1
Scott Parker (Tottenham Hotspur)	1
Rafael Van der Vaart (Tottenham Hotspur)	1

FORWARDS

Lionel Messi (Barcelona)	16
Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)	10
Robin Van Persie (Arsenal)	7
Mario Gomez (Bayern Munich)	7
Wayne Rooney (Manchester United)	5
Sergio Aguero (Manchester City)	4
Gonzalo Higuain (Real Madrid)	3
Mario Balotelli (Manchester City)	2
Falcao (Atletico Madrid)	1
Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Schalke)	1
Miroslav Klose (Lazio)	1
Juan Mata (Chelsea)	1
Thomas Muller (Bayern Munich)	1

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ARMENIA

Record run broken

Ulisses ended Pyunik's 10-year reign by lifting the Armenian league title for the first time in their history.

"I'm so happy for Ulisses and for the history of the club," said Ulisses coach Sevada Arzumanyan, whose team will make their UEFA Champions League debut next season after two Europa League first-qualifying round exits.

"It's our greatest triumph after two successive third-place finishes. Five years of hard work have finally born fruit."

Third-place Pyunik – whose decade-long run of titles had until now been the longest current winning spell in any league in the world – and runners-up Gandzasar will enter the next Europa League in the first qualifying round.

Struggling...Austria Vienna's Peter Hlinka is stopped by Wacker

AUSTRIA

New boys still on top

A goalless draw away to Wiener Neustadt kept promoted Admira top of the Austrian Bundesliga as their closest challengers Austria Vienna dropped points at home to Wacker.

Austria Vienna even had

Club Results

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Oct 18
Manchester City (Eng) 2 (Marchena og 43, Aguero 90+3)
Villarreal (Spa) 1 (Cani 4)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 43,326. **Ref:** Kralovec (Cze)
Man City: Hart - Zabaleta, Kompany, Lescott, Kolarov, De Jong (Aguero 62), Y Toure, Johnson (Barry 40), Silva, Nasri (Milner 80), Dzeko.
Villarreal: Diego Lopez - Zapata, Marchena, Rodriguez, Catala, Borja Valero, Bruno, Perez (Wakaso 80), De Guzman (Marcos Gullon 89), Cani (Mario 82), Rossi.

Oct 18
Napoli (Ita) 1 (Badstuber og 39)
Bayern Munich (Ger) 1 (Kroos 2)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 60,074. **Ref:** Benquerenca (Por)
Napoli: De Sanctis - Campagnaro, Cannavaro, Aronica, Maggio, Gargano, Inler (Santana 89), Zuniga, Hamsik (Mascara 90+2), Lavezzi, Cavani (Dzemaili 81).
Bayern: Neuer - Boateng, Van Buyten, Badstuber, Lahm, Tymoshchuk, Schweinsteiger, Muller, Kroos, Ribery (Alaba 90), Gomez (Luiz Gustavo 90+4).

Nov 2
Bayern Munich 3 (Gomez 17, 23, 42)
Napoli 2 (Fernandez 45, 79)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 66,000. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
Bayern: Neuer - Boateng, Van Buyten, Badstuber, Lahm, Luiz Gustavo, Schweinsteiger (Tymoshchuk 53), Muller, Kroos, Ribery (Alaba 80), Gomez.
Sent off: Badstuber 77min.
Napoli: De Sanctis - Campagnaro, Fernandez, Aronica (Dossena 42), Zuniga, Maggio, Inler, Dzemaili (Pandev 84), Hamsik, Cavani, Lavezzi.
Sent off: Zuniga 70min.

Nov 2
Villarreal 0
Manchester City 3 (Y Toure 30, 71, Balotelli pen 45+3)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 19,358. **Ref:** Proenca (Por)
Villarreal: Diego Lopez - Mario, Rodriguez, Musacchio, Catala, Marchena, Borja Valero, De Guzman (Angel 76), Perez (Joan Oriol 84), Wakaso (Gerard 77), Joselu.
Man City: Hart - Zabaleta, Kompany, Savic, Clichy, De Jong, Y Toure (Aguero 74), Milner, Silva (Johnson 65), Nasri, Balotelli (Kolarov 82).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern	4	3	1	0	8	3	10
Man City	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Napoli	4	1	2	1	6	5	5
Villarreal	4	0	0	4	1	9	0

Previous results
Man City 1 Napoli 1; Villarreal 0 Bayern 2; Bayern 2 Man City 0; Napoli 2 Villarreal 0
Remaining games
Nov 22: Bayern v Villarreal; Napoli v Man City.
Dec 7: Man City v Bayern; Villarreal v Napoli.

Group B

Oct 18
CSKA Moscow (Rus) 3 (Doumbia 29, 86, Cauna 76)
Trabzonspor (Tur) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
CSKA: Gabulov - Fedotov, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, A Berezutsky, Dzagoev, Aldonin, Mamaev (Semberas 70), Tosic (Cauna 62), Vagner Love, Doumbia (Rahimic 87).
Trabzonspor: Tolga - Celustka, Giray, Glowacki, Cech (Sapara 75), Serkan, Colman, Zokora, Alanzinho (Brozek 46), Mierzejewski, Altintop (Aykut 90+1).

Oct 18
Lille (Fra) 0
Internazionale (Ita) 1 (Pazzini 21)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 16,996. **Ref:** Webb (Eng)
Lille: Enyeama - Debuchy, Basa, Chedjou, Beria, Balmont (Gueye 81), Mavuba, Pedretti (Payet 62), Cole (Obraniak 74), Sow, Hazard.
Inter: Julio Cesar - Maicon, Lucio, Chivu, Nagatomo, Zanetti, Thiago Motta, Cambiasso, Sneijder (Stankovic 67), Pazzini (Milito 81), Zarate (Obi 63).

Nov 2
Internazionale 2 (Samuel 18, Milito 65)
Lille 1 (De Melo 83)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,299. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Inter: Castellazzi - Zanetti, Lucio, Samuel, Chivu, Stankovic, Thiago Motta, Cambiasso, Sneijder (Alvarez 67), Milito (Obi 90), Zarate (Pazzini 79).
Lille: Landreau - Debuchy, Chedjou, Rozehnal, Beria, Cole (Payet 71), Mavuba, Pedretti, Hazard, Sow (Obraniak 60), Jelen (De Melo 46).

Nov 2
Trabzonspor 0
CSKA Moscow 0
Att: 19,516. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
Trabzonspor: Tolga - Celustka, Giray, Glowacki, Cech, Zokora, Serkan (Alanzinho 61), Mierzejewski (Aykut 81), Colman, Altintop (Paulo Henrique 61), Burak.
CSKA: Gabulov - A Berezutsky, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, Schennikov (Nababkin 46), Mamaev (Semberas 79), Aldonin, Tosic (Cauna 69), Vagner Love, Dzagoev, Doumbia. *Sent off: Doumbia 73min.*

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	4	3	0	1	6	4	9
CSKA Moscow	4	1	2	1	7	5	5
Trabzonspor	4	1	2	1	2	4	5
Lille	4	0	2	2	4	6	2

Previous results
Inter 0 Trabzonspor 1; Lille 2 CSKA 2; CSKA 2 Inter 3; Trabzonspor 1 Lille 1.
Remaining games
Nov 22: CSKA v Lille; Trabzonspor v Inter.
Dec 7: Inter v CSKA; Lille v Trabzonspor.

Group C

Oct 18
Basle (Swi) 0
Benfica (Por) 2 (Bruno Cesar 20, Cardozo 75)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,831. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Basle: Sommer - Steinhofer, Abraham, Dragovic, Park, Shaqiri, Huggel (Chipperfield 85), G Xhaka (Cabral 80), F Frei (Zoua 66), A Frei, Streller.
Benfica: Artur - Pereira (Miguel Vitor 78), Garay, Luisao, Emerson, Javi Garcia, Bruno Cesar, Gaitan, Almar (Nolito 67), Witsel, Rodrigo (Cardozo 70).
Sent off: Emerson 86min.

Oct 18
Otelul Galati (Rom) 0
Manchester United (Eng) 2 (Rooney pen 64, pen 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,047. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Otelul: Grahovac - Rapa, Costin, Perendija, Salageanu, Neagu (Pena 72), Filip, Giurgiu, Antal, Punosevac (Viglianti 87), Frunza (Ilie 83).
Sent off: Perendija 89min.
Man United: Lindegaard - Fabio (Jones 76), Vidic, Smalling, Evra, Valencia (Evans 71), Carrick, Anderson, Nani, Rooney, Hernandez.
Sent off: Vidic 66min.

Nov 2
Benfica 1 (Rodrigo 4)
Basle 1 (Huggel 64)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 39,270. **Ref:** Velasco Carballo (Spa)
Benfica: Artur - Pereira, Luisao, Garay, Luis Martins (Miguel Vitor 64), Matic, Witsel, Gaitan (Nolito 82), Rodrigo, Bruno Cesar, Almar (Cardozo 73).
Basle: Sommer - Steinhofer, Abraham, Dragovic, Park, Shaqiri, Huggel, G Xhaka (Cabral 81), F Frei, Chipperfield (Kusunga 89), Zoua (Pak 90+3).

Nov 2
Manchester United 2 (Valencia 8, Sarghi og 87)
Otelul Galati 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 74,847. **Ref:** Strahonja (Cro)
Man United: De Gea - Jones, Ferdinand, Evans (Fryers 89), Fabio, Valencia, Anderson (Park 80), Nani, Rooney, Berbatov, Owen (Hernandez 11).
Otelul: Grahovac - Rapa, Sarghi, Costin, Salageanu, Neagu, Filip, Girugiu (Paraschiv 81), Antal (Iorga 61), Pena, Ilie (Frunza 53).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man United	4	2	2	0	8	4	8
Benfica	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
Basle	4	1	2	1	6	7	5
Otelul	4	0	0	4	1	7	0

Previous results
Basle 2 Otelul 1; Benfica 1 Man United 1; Man United 3 Basle 3; Otelul 0 Benfica 1.
Remaining games
Nov 22: Man United v Benfica; Otelul v Basle.
Dec 7: Basle v Man United; Benfica v Otelul.

Group D

Oct 18
Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 0
Ajax (Hol) 2 (Boerrigter 49, Eriksen 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,714. **Ref:** Grafe (Ger)
Dinamo: Kelava - Vida, Tonel, Simunic, Ibanez, Leko, Calello (Tomecak 80), Badelj (Kovacic 46), Sammir, Rukavina, Beqiraj (Pokrivac 70).
Ajax: Vermeer - Van der Wiel, Alderweireld, Vertonghen, Anita, Eriksen (Lodeiro 90+3), Enoh, Janssen, Sulejmani, De Jong, Boerrigter (Bulykin 70).

Oct 18
Real Madrid (Spa) 4 (Benzema 19, Khedira 47, Lloris og 55, Sergio Ramos 81)
Lyon (Fra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Arbeloa, Pepe, Sergio Ramos, Marcelo, Khedira (Fabio Coentrao 61), Xabi Alonso, Di Maria, Ozil (Kaka 66), Cristiano Ronaldo, Benzema (Higuain 72).
Lyon: Lloris - Reveillere, Kone, Lovren, Cissokho, Fofana, Kallstrom, Briand, Gourcuff (Ederson 66), Michel Bastos, Gomis (Dabo 80).

Nov 2
Ajax 4 (Van der Wiel 20, Sulejmani 25, De Jong 65, Lodeiro 90+2)
Dinamo Zagreb 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 49,707. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
Ajax: Vermeer - Van der Wiel, Alderweireld, Vertonghen, Anita, Eriksen (Lodeiro 80), Enoh, Janssen, Sulejmani (Lukoki 72), De Jong, Boerrigter (Ebecilio 77).
Dinamo: Kelava - Vrsaljko, Vida, Simunic, Ibanez, Badelj, Leko, Calello (Tomecak 46), Kovacic, Rukavina (Beqiraj 56), Sammir (Situm 72).

Nov 2
Lyon 0
Real Madrid 2 (Cristiano Ronaldo 24, pen 69)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,099. **Ref:** Rizzoli (Ita)
Lyon: Lloris - Reveillere, Cris, Lovren (Kone 38), Dabo, Gonalons, Kallstrom, Briand, Gourcuff, Ederson (Belfodil 84), Gomis (Lacazette 75).
Real Madrid: Casillas - Diarra, Pepe, Sergio Ramos, Fabio Coentrao (Raul Albiol 64), Khedira, Xabi Alonso, Di Maria (Callejon 83), Ozil, Cristiano Ronaldo, Benzema (Higuain 71).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	4	4	0	0	10	0	12
Ajax	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Lyon	4	1	1	2	2	6	4
Dinamo Zagreb	4	0	0	4	0	9	0

Previous results
Ajax 0 Lyon 0; Dinamo 0 Real Madrid 1; Lyon 2 Dinamo 0; Real Madrid 3 Ajax 0.
Remaining games
Nov 22: Lyon v Ajax; Real Madrid v Dinamo.
Dec 7: Ajax v Real Madrid; Dinamo v Lyon.

to come from two goals down, with goals from Michael Liendl and Zlatko Junuzovic making it 2-2.

Out-of-sorts Salzburg, who were widely expected to be challenging for the championship, lost 3-0 away to relegation-threatened Mattersburg and have now not won for six games.

"This is a very painful defeat," said Salzburg coach Ricardo Moniz. "We handed the game to our opponents by making mistakes at set pieces. But we were toothless up front as well.

"You have to look for reasons and that's my job. I accept there'll be criticism, but I'm not worried."

Bottom club Kapfenberg, who trail Mattersburg by three points, were denied a draw at reigning champions Sturm Graz by Darko Bodul's winner in the fifth minute of stoppage time.

BELARUS

Eight for BATE

Viktor Goncharenko's BATE Borisov side claimed their eighth Belarusian Premier League crown with a 4-2 victory over Torpedo Zhodino and surpassed Dinamo Minsk's seven titles.

Winner...Goncharenko

200 matches Pep Guardiola has been Barcelona coach, up to and including the Champions League game against Viktoria Plzen

Group E

Oct 19
Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 2 (Schurrle 52, Sam 56)
Valencia (Spa) 1 (Jonas 24)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 26,384. **Ref:** Thomson (Sco)
Leverkusen: Leno - Castro, Reinartz (Friedrich 46), Toprak, Kadlec, Bender, Rolfes, Sam (Schwaab 90+1), Ballack, Schurrle, Kiessling (Derdiyok 81).
Valencia: Diego Alves - Miguel, Rami, Victor Ruiz, Jordi Alba (Canales 65), Albelda (Aduriz 82), Banega, Pablo (Feghouli 65), Mathieu, Jonas, Soldado.

Oct 19
Chelsea (Eng) 5 (Raul Meireles 8, Fernando Torres 11, 27, Ivanovic 42, Kalou 72)
Genk (Blg) 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 38,518. **Ref:** Nikolaev (Rus)
Chelsea: Cech - Bosingwa (Alex 78), Ivanovic, David Luiz, Cole (Paulo Ferreira 46), Oriol Romeu, Lampard (Kalou 68), Raul Meireles, Anelka, Fernando Torres, Malouda.
Genk: Koteles - Ngcongca, Masuero (Camus 46), Tozser, Pudil, Buffel, Vanden Borre, Hyland, De Bruyne, Vossen (Nwanganga 81), Barda (Ndabashinze 71).

Nov 1
Genk 1 (Vossen 61)
Chelsea 1 (Ramires 26)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 22,584. **Ref:** Moen (Nor)
Genk: Koteles - Vanden Borre, Hyland, Nadson, Ngcongca, Buffel (Ndabashinze 69), Camus, Tozser, De Bruyne, Vossen (Barda 87), Nwanganga (Limbombe 82).
Chelsea: Cech - Bosingwa, David Luiz, Ivanovic, Cole, Ramires (Lampard 66), Oriol Romeu (Mata 77), Raul Meireles, Anelka (Sturridge 66), Fernando Torres, Malouda.

Nov 1
Valencia 3 (Jonas 1, Soldado 65, Rami 75)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kiessling 31)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 37,047. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Valencia: Diego Alves - Miguel, Rami, Victor Ruiz, Mathieu, Mehmet, Banega (Tino Costa 24), Pablo, Jonas (Jordi Alba 74), Feghouli (Piatti 59), Soldado.
Leverkusen: Leno - Castro, Friedrich, Toprak, Kadlec, Bender (Reinartz 79), Rolfes, Sam (Jorgensen 84), Ballack, Schurrle, Kiessling (Derdiyok 77).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	4	2	2	0	9	2	8
Leverkusen	4	2	0	2	5	6	6
Valencia	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Genk	4	0	2	2	1	8	2

Previous results
Chelsea 2 Leverkusen 0; Genk 0 Valencia 0; Leverkusen 2 Genk 0; Valencia 1 Chelsea 1.
Remaining games
Nov 23: Leverkusen v Chelsea; Valencia v Genk.
Dec 6: Chelsea v Valencia; Genk v Leverkusen.

Group F

Oct 19
Marseille (Fra) 0
Arsenal (Eng) 1 (Ramsey 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,258. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Marseille: Mandanda - Azpilicueta, Diawara, Nkoulou, Morel, Diarra, Cheyrou (Kabore 87), Valbuena, Gonzalez (Amalfitano 73), A Ayew, Remy (Gignac 69).
Arsenal: Szczesny - Jenkinson (Djourou 62), Mertesacker, Koscielny, Andre Santos, Song, Arteta, Walcott (Gervinho 67), Rosicky, Arshavin (Ramsey 78), Van Persie.

Oct 19
Olympiakos (Gre) 3 (Holebas 8, Djebbour 40, Modesto 78)
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1 (Lewandowski 26)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 29,638. **Ref:** Nijhuis (Hol)
Olympiakos: Costanzo - Modesto, Mellberg, Papadopoulos, Marcano, Makoun (Maniatis 73), Orbaiz, Mirallas (Fetfatzidis 90+1), Ibagaza, Holebas, Djebbour (Pantelic 87).
Dortmund: Weidenfeller - Piszczek, Subotic, Hummels, Schmelzer, Gundogan (Leitner 57), Bender, Gotze (Grosskreutz 82), Kagawa (Blaszczykowski 66), Perisic, Lewandowski.

Nov 1
Arsenal 0
Marseille 0
Att: 59,961. **Ref:** Tagliavento (Ita)
Arsenal: Szczesny - Jenkinson, Mertesacker, Vermaelen, Andre Santos, Song, Arteta, Walcott, Ramsey (Rosicky 66), Park (Van Persie 62), Gervinho (Arshavin 77).
Marseille: Mandanda - Fanni, Diawara, Nkoulou, Morel, Diarra, Cheyrou, Remy (Amalfitano 69), Valbuena (Gonzalez 74), A Ayew, J Ayew (Gignac 84).

Nov 1
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Grosskreutz 7)
Olympiakos 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 65,590. **Ref:** Bezborodov (Rus)
Dortmund: Weidenfeller - Piszczek, Subotic, Hummels, Schmelzer, Kehl, Leitner (Felipe Santana 86), Gotze (Kagawa 66), Perisic (Blaszczykowski 76), Grosskreutz, Lewandowski.
Olympiakos: Megyeri - Modesto, Mellberg, Papadopoulos, Marcano (Abdoun 67), Fejsa (Makoun 59), Orbaiz, Mirallas, Ibagaza (Pantelic 79), Holebas, Djebbour.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	4	2	2	0	4	2	8
Marseille	4	2	1	1	4	1	7
Dortmund	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
Olympiakos	4	1	0	3	4	5	3

Previous results
Dortmund 1 Arsenal 1; Olympiakos 0 Marseille 1; Arsenal 2 Olympiakos 1; Marseille 3 Dortmund 0.
Remaining games
Nov 23: Arsenal v Dortmund; Marseille v Olympiakos.
Dec 6: Dortmund v Marseille; Olympiakos v Arsenal.

Group G

Oct 19
Porto (Por) 1 (Hulk 13)
APOEL Nicosia (Cyp) 1 (Ailton 19)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 32,512. **Ref:** Gautier (Fra)
Porto: Helton - Sapunaru, Rolando, Otamendi, Pereira, Guarin, Fernando (Belluschi 69), Joao Moutinho (Defour 78), Hulk, Kleber, Rodriguez (Silvestre Varela 69).
APOEL: Chiotis (Pardo 52) - Poursaitidis, Kaka, Marcelo Oliveira, Boaventura, Nuno Morais, Helio Pinto, Charalambides, Manduca (Jahic 72), Trickovski (Adorno 90+3), Ailton.

Oct 19
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 2 (Willian 15, Luiz Adriano 45+1)
Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) 2 (Shirokov 33, Fayzulin 60)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 50,578. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Shakhtar: Rybka - Srna, Chyzhov (Kucher 73), Chygrynskyi, Rat, Fernandinho, Hubschman, Douglas Costa (Alex Teixeira 75), Jadson (Mkhitaryan 67), Willian, Luiz Adriano.
Zenit: Malafeev - Criscito, Lombaerts, Bruno Alves, Hubocan, Shirokov, Denisov, Danny, Zyryanov (Semak 90+1), Fayzulin, Bukharov (Lazovic 74).

Nov 1
APOEL Nicosia 2 (Ailton pen 42, Manduca 90)
Porto 1 (Hulk pen 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,301. **Ref:** Rocchi (Ita)
APOEL: Pardo - Solomou, Paulo Jorge, Marcelo Oliveira, Poursaitidis, Nuno Morais, Helio Pinto, Charalambides, Trickovski (Solari 85), Manduca (Alexandrou 90), Ailton (Jahic 77).
Porto: Helton - Fucile, Rolando, Mangala, Pereira, Fernando (Guarin 60), Joao Moutinho, Belluschi (Defour 76), Hulk, Silvestre Varela (Rodriguez 60), Kleber.

Nov 1
Zenit St Petersburg 1 (Lombaerts 45+1)
Shakhtar Donetsk 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,405. **Ref:** Lannoy (Fra)
Zenit: Malafeev - Anyukov, Hubocan, Lombaerts, Criscito, Denisov, Zyryanov, Danny (Lazovic 85), Shirokov, Fayzulin, Bukharov (Semak 81).
Shakhtar: Rybka - Srna, Kucher, Rakitskyi, Shevchuk, Mkhitaryan, Hubschman, Alex Teixeira (Douglas Costa 68), Eduardo, Willian, Luiz Adriano (Selezniov 77).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
APOEL	4	2	2	0	6	4	8
Zenit	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
Porto	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Shakhtar	4	0	2	2	4	6	2

Previous results
APOEL 2 Zenit 1; Porto 2 Shakhtar 1; Shakhtar 1 APOEL 1; Zenit 3 Porto 1.
Remaining games
Nov 23: Shakhtar v Porto; Zenit v APOEL.
Dec 6: APOEL v Shakhtar; Porto v Zenit.

Group H

Oct 19
Barcelona (Spa) 2 (Iniesta 10, Villa 82)
Viktoria Plzen (Cze) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 74,376. **Ref:** Stavrev (Mac)
Barcelona: Valdes - Daniel Alves, Mascherano, Abidal, Adriano, Xavi, Busquets, Iniesta (Keita 85), Pedro, Messi, Villa (Cuenca 88).
Plzen: Cech - Rajtoral, Cisovsky, Bystron, Limbersky, Petrzela (Darida 86), Horvath, Jiracek, Pilar (Fillo 75), Kolar, Bakos (Duris 58).

Oct 19
Milan (Ita) 2 (Ibrahimovic 33, Boateng 70)
BATE Borisov (Bls) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 66,040. **Ref:** Hagen (Nor)
Milan: Abbiati - Abate, Nesta (Mexes 85), Bonera, Taiwo, Van Bommel, Aquilani, Boateng (Emanuelson 78), Nocerino, Ibrahimovic, Cassano (Robinho 62).
BATE: Gutor - Baga, Radkov, Simic, Yurevich, A Volodko, Likhtarovich (Olekhnovich 66), Kontsevoy, Bressan (Pavlov 77), Bordachev, Kezman (Skavysh 70).

Nov 1
BATE Borisov 1 (Bressan pen 55)
Milan 1 (Ibrahimovic 22)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 29,100. **Ref:** Rasmussen (Den)
BATE: Gutor - Baga (Pavlov 76), Radkov, Simic, Yurevich, A Volodko, Likhtarovich (Olekhnovich 63), Kontsevoy (Gordeychuk 84), Bressan, Bordachev, Skavysh.
Milan: Abbiati - Abate, Nesta (Bonera 67), Taiwo, Ambrosini, Aquilani (Seedorf 69), Thiago Silva, Boateng, Robinho (Ganz 83), Nocerino, Ibrahimovic.

Nov 1
Viktoria Plzen 0
Barcelona 4 (Messi pen 24, 45+2, 90+2, Fabregas 72)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 20,145. **Ref:** Schorgenhofer (Aut)
Plzen: Pavlik - Rajtoral, Cisovsky, Bystron, Limbersky, Horvath (Reznik 78), Jiracek, Petrzela, Kolar (Duris 68), Pilar, Bakos (Sevinsky 24).
Sent off: Cisovsky 22min.
Barcelona: Valdes - Daniel Alves (Maxwell 71), Pique, Puyol, Abidal (Sanchez 73), Thiago, Busquets (Keita 65), Fabregas, Cuenca, Messi, Adriano.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	4	3	1	0	13	2	10
Milan	4	2	2	0	7	3	8
BATE	4	0	2	2	2	9	2
Plzen	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

Previous results
Barcelona 2 Milan 2; Plzen 1 BATE 1; BATE 0 Barcelona 5; Milan 2 Plzen 0.
Remaining games
Nov 23: BATE v Plzen; Milan v Barcelona.
Dec 6: Barcelona v BATE; Plzen v Milan.

Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round; 3rd-placed teams enter Europa League at 1st knockout round stage

BOSNIA

Brotherly battle

Zeljeznicar goalkeeper Adi Adilovicar won the family bragging rights in the "eternal derby" as his side beat city rivals Sarajevo, for whom his brother Eldin played up front.

An own goal from Dilaver Zrnanovic saw Zeljeznicar go three points clear of their third-placed neighbours in the league table, although they remain three points behind leaders Siroki Brijeg.

BULGARIA

New boys march on

Top-flight debutants Ludogorets Razgrad remain top of the table despite losing their first league game of the season, going down 2-1 away to defending champions Litex Lovech. The loss ended an eight-game winning run for coach Ivaylo Petev, who says: "The result against Litex is not so important. Our target remains the same as at the beginning of the season – a top-six finish.

"Our main aim is to play attractive, attacking football. We must not allow a dip in form and we must build on what we have done so far."

No pay, no play...Sibenik (in orange) and Karlovac players protest

CLUB FOOTBALL

EUROPA LEAGUE

Group A

Oct 20: PAOK Salonika (Gre) 2 Shamrock Rovers (Rlr) 1; Tottenham Hotspur (Eng) 1 Rubin Kazan (Rus) 0.
Nov 3: Rubin Kazan 1 Tottenham Hotspur 0; Shamrock Rovers 1 PAOK Salonika 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PAOK	4	2	2	0	7	4	8
Rubin Kazan	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Tottenham	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
Shamrock	4	0	0	4	3	11	0

Remaining games
Nov 30: Rubin v Shamrock; Tottenham v PAOK.
Dec 15: PAOK v Rubin; Shamrock v Tottenham.

Group B

Oct 20: Hanover (Ger) 2 Copenhagen (Den) 2; Standard Liege (Blg) 0 Vorskla Poltava (Ukr) 0.
Nov 3: Copenhagen 1 Hanover 2; Vorskla Poltava 1 Standard Liege 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Standard	4	2	2	0	6	1	8
Hanover	4	2	2	0	6	4	8
Copenhagen	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Vorskla	4	0	1	3	2	6	1

Remaining games
Nov 30: Standard v Hanover; Vorskla v Copenhagen.
Dec 15: Copenhagen v Standard; Hanover v Vorskla.

Group C

Oct 20: Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 0 PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 1; Rapid Bucharest (Rom) 0 Legia Warsaw (Pol) 1.
Nov 3: Legia Warsaw 3 Rapid Bucharest 1; PSV Eindhoven 3 Hapoel Tel Aviv 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	4	3	1	0	8	4	10
Legia	4	3	0	1	7	4	9
Rapid Buch'st	4	1	0	3	3	7	3
H Tel Aviv	4	0	1	3	5	8	1

Remaining games
Nov 30: Legia v PSV; Rapid v Hapoel.
Dec 15: Hapoel v Legia; PSV v Rapid.

Group D

Oct 20: Sporting Lisbon (Por) 2 Vaslui (Rom) 0; Zurich (Swi) 1 Lazio (Ita) 1.
Nov 3: Lazio 1 Zurich 0; Vaslui 1 Sporting Lisbon 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting L'bon	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
Vaslui	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
Lazio	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Zurich	4	0	2	2	3	6	2

Remaining games
Dec 1: Sporting v Zurich; Vaslui v Lazio.
Dec 14: Lazio v Sporting; Zurich v Vaslui.

Group E

Oct 20: Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) 1 Besiktas (Tur) 0; Stoke City (Eng) 3 Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 0.
Nov 3: Besiktas 1 Dynamo Kiev 0; Maccabi Tel Aviv 1 Stoke City 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke	4	3	1	0	8	3	10
Besiktas	4	2	0	2	7	4	6
Dynamo Kiev	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
M Tel Aviv	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

Remaining games
Dec 1: Maccabi v Besiktas; Stoke v Dynamo.
Dec 14: Besiktas v Stoke; Dynamo v Maccabi.

Group F

Oct 20: Athletic Bilbao (Spa) 2 Salzburg (Aut) 2; Slovan Bratislava (Slk) 0 Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 0.
Nov 3: Paris Saint-Germain 1 Slovan Bratislava 0; Salzburg 0 Athletic Bilbao 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Athletic B'bao	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
PSG	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Salzburg	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
Slovan B'slava	4	0	1	3	1	6	1

Remaining games
Dec 1: Athletic v Slovan; Salzburg v PSG.
Dec 14: PSG v Athletic; Slovan v Salzburg.

Group G

Oct 20: AZ Alkmaar (Hol) 2 Austria Vienna (Aut) 2; Malmo (Swe) 1 Metalist Kharkiv (Ukr) 4.
Nov 3: Austria Vienna 2 AZ Alkmaar 2; Metalist Kharkiv 3 Malmo 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Metalist	4	3	1	0	10	4	10
AZ	4	1	3	0	9	6	6
Austria	4	1	2	1	7	7	5
Malmo	4	0	0	4	4	13	0

Remaining games
Nov 30: Malmo v AZ; Metalist v Austria.
Dec 15: Austria v Malmo; AZ v Metalist.

Group H

Oct 20: Club Brugge (Blg) 1 Birmingham City (Eng) 2; Maribor (Sln) 1 Braga (Por) 1.
Nov 3: Birmingham City 2 Club Brugge 2; Braga 5 Maribor 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
Birmingham	4	2	1	1	7	7	7
Braga	4	2	1	1	10	5	7
Maribor	4	0	1	3	3	10	1

Remaining games
Nov 30: Braga v Birmingham; Maribor v C Brugge.
Dec 15: Birmingham v Maribor; C Brugge v Braga.

Group I

Oct 20: Rennes (Fra) 1 Celtic (Sco) 1; Udinese (Ita) 2 Atletico Madrid (Spa) 0.
Nov 3: Atletico Madrid 4 Udinese 0; Celtic 3 Rennes 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atletico M'rid	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Udinese	4	2	1	1	5	6	7
Celtic	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Rennes	4	0	2	2	4	7	2

Remaining games
Nov 30: Celtic v Atletico; Rennes v Udinese.
Dec 15: Atletico v Rennes; Udinese v Celtic.

Group J

Oct 20: AEK Larnaca (Cyp) 0 Schalke (Ger) 5; Maccabi Haifa (Isr) 5 Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 0.
Nov 3: Schalke 0 AEK Larnaca 0; Steaua Bucharest 4 Maccabi Haifa 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Schalke	4	2	2	0	8	1	8
M Haifa	4	2	0	2	9	7	6
Steaua	4	1	2	1	5	8	5
AEK Larnaca	4	0	2	2	1	7	2

Remaining games
Dec 1: AEK v Maccabi; Schalke v Steaua.
Dec 14: Maccabi v Schalke; Steaua v AEK.

Group K

Oct 20: OB Odense (Den) 1 Twente Enschede (Hol) 4; Wisla Krakow (Pol) 1 Fulham (Eng) 0.
Nov 3: Fulham 4 Wisla Krakow 1; Twente Enschede 3 OB Odense 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Twente	4	3	1	0	12	5	10
Fulham	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
OB	4	1	0	3	6	10	3
Wisla	4	1	0	3	4	11	3

Remaining games
Dec 1: OB v Wisla; Twente v Fulham.
Dec 14: Fulham v OB; Wisla v Twente.

Group L

Oct 20: Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 3 AEK Athens (Gre) 1; Sturm Graz (Aut) 0 Anderlecht (Blg) 2.
Nov 3: AEK Athens 1 Lokomotiv Moscow 3; Anderlecht 3 Sturm Graz 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	4	4	0	0	11	1	12
Lokomotiv M	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Sturm	4	1	0	3	3	8	3
AEK Athens	4	0	0	4	4	12	0

Remaining games
Dec 1: AEK v Anderlecht; Lokomotiv v Sturm.
Dec 14: Anderlecht v Lokomotiv; Sturm v AEK.

Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round, where they will be joined by the 8 3rd-placed teams from the Champions League group stage

ARMENIA

ARMENIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ulisses (C)	28	15	8	5	38	22	53
Gandzasar	28	12	10	6	31	18	46
Pyunik	28	12	10	6	33	28	46
Banants	28	12	8	8	42	30	44
Mika	28	12	8	8	36	25	44
Impuls	28	10	7	11	37	36	37
Shirak	28	6	7	15	27	42	25
Ararat	28	2	4	22	14	57	10

AUSTRIA

Oct 15: Kapfenberger 0 Admira 0; Salzburg 1 Wacker 1; Rapid 1 Wiener Neustadt 1; Ried 2 Austria 1.
Oct 16: Mattersburg 3 Sturm 3.
Oct 22: Ried 2 Mattersburg 0; Wiener Neustadt 2 Kapfenberger 0; Admira 3 Wacker 2.
Oct 23: Austria 1 Rapid 1; Sturm 2 Salzburg 1.
Oct 29: Salzburg 1 Ried 1; Rapid 3 Sturm 2; Wacker 2 Wiener Neustadt 0; Mattersburg 0 Admira 0.
Oct 30: Kapfenberger 2 Austria 2.
Nov 5: Wiener Neustadt 0 Admira 0; Ried 1 Rapid 1.
Nov 6: Mattersburg 3 Salzburg 0; Sturm 1 Kapfenberger 0; Austria 2 Wacker 2.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Admira	14	7	6	1	26	17	27
Austria	14	6	5	3	28	20	23
Rapid	14	5	6	3	22	15	21
Ried	14	5	6	3	21	15	21
Salzburg	14	5	5	4	19	15	20
Sturm	14	5	5	4	23	21	20
Wacker	14	3	7	4	17	22	16
W Neustadt	14	3	5	6	11	22	14
Mattersburg	14	2	6	6	18	22	12
Kapfenberger	14	2	3	9	12	28	9

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

BELGIUM

Regular season

Oct 15: Lokeren 3 Genk 1; Mechelen 1 Cercle Brugge 2; Zulte Waregem 1 Lierse 2; St Truiden 2 Beerschot 4; Mons 3 Kortrijk 1; OH Leuven 1 Westerlo 1.
Oct 16: Club Brugge 2 Gent 0; Anderlecht 5 Standard 0.
Oct 22: Gent 3 Lokeren 1; Genk 2 Mons 0; Beerschot 2 Mechelen 2; Lierse 0 St Truiden 2; Cercle Brugge 2 OH Leuven 0.
Oct 23: Westerlo 1 Anderlecht 2; Kortrijk 2 Club Brugge 1; Standard 1 Zulte Waregem 0.
Oct 29: Club Brugge 4 Genk 5; Zulte Waregem 1 Cercle Brugge 1; OH Leuven 3 Beerschot 2; Lokeren 1 Kortrijk 4; Mechelen 1 Westerlo 0; Mons 1 Gent 1.
Oct 30: Anderlecht 4 Lierse 0; St Truiden 1 Standard 1.
Nov 4: Gent 6 Mechelen 2.
Nov 5: Genk 2 Kortrijk 2; Beerschot 2 Mons 0; Zulte Waregem 0 St Truiden 0; Lierse 3 OH Leuven 1; Westerlo 2 Lokeren 4.
Nov 6: Cercle Brugge 1 Anderlecht 0; Standard 2 Club Brugge 1.

BELGIUM – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	13	9	2	2	26	10	29
Gent	13	8	2	3	32	18	26
Cercle Brugge	13	7	5	1	18	11	26
Club Brugge	13	6	4	3	26	18	22
Standard	13	6	4	3	16	17	22
Kortrijk	13	6	3	4	20	14	21
Genk	13	5	5	3	25	20	20
Mons	13	4	5	4	25	22	17
Beerschot	13	4	5	4	24	21	17
Lokeren	13	4	3	6	19	21	15
OH Leuven	13	4	2	7	15	24	14
Mechelen	13	4	2	7	15	26	14
Z Waregem	13	2	6	5	11	17	12
Lierse	13	2	6	5	9	16	12
St Truiden	13	1	4	8	19	32	7
Westerlo	13	1	4	8	11	24	7

30-round regular season (15x2); top 6 enter championship play-offs, teams placed 7th to 14th enter Europa League place play-offs, bottom 2 (15th & 16th) enter relegation play-off (1 of them will go down)

CROATIA

Refusing to play

At the start of the top-flight game between Sibenik and Karlovac, all 22 players sat down on the pitch and refused to play for the first two minutes of the match in protest over the non-payment of wages.

When the game eventually got under way, Sibenik won 4-1.

Failed drug test...Zapalac

CZECH REPUBLIC

Drug failure banned

Viktoria Zizkov midfielder Petr Zapalac was banned for 18 months after testing positive for clenbuterol after a game against Teplice.

DENMARK

Superliga's best

Copenhagen's Senegalese striker Dame N'Doye has been voted the Superliga player of the year by the Danish FA.

The 26-year-old, whose side are seven points clear at the top of the table, dedicated the award to the club's former coach, Stale Solbakken.

"When I came to Copenhagen I wanted to play football for fun," said N'Doye. "Stale taught me to be responsible."

Best in Denmark...N'Doye

BULGARIA

Oct 14: Beroe 1 Vidima-Rakovski 0.
Oct 15: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2 Svetkavitsa 0; Ludogorets 4 Minyor 1; CSKA 1 Slavia 2; Lovech 0 Montana 0.
Oct 16: Lokomotiv Sofia 0 Botev 1; Chernomorets 2 Levski 0.
Oct 18: Kaliakra 0 Cherno More 5.
Oct 21: Montana 1 Vidima-Rakovski 0; Svetkavitsa 1 Beroe 3; Slavia 3 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0; Cherno More 0 CSKA 0; Botev 0 Chernomorets 0; Minyor 1 Lokomotiv Sofia 2; Levski 3 Kaliakra 2.
Oct 24: Lovech 2 Ludogorets 1.
Oct 26: Beroe 1 Slavia 0.
Oct 27: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1 Cherno More 0; Vidima-Rakovski 1 Svetkavitsa 0; Chernomorets 1 Minyor 0; Kaliakra 0 Botev 0.
Oct 28: CSKA 1 Levski 0.
Oct 31: Ludogorets 3 Montana 0; Lokomotiv Sofia 1 Lovech 2.
Nov 4: Minyor 1 Kaliakra 1.
Nov 5: Slavia 1 Vidima-Rakovski 1; Cherno More 2 Beroe 0; Ludogorets 4 Lokomotiv Sofia 0; Lovech 0 Chernomorets 0.
Nov 6: Botev 2 CSKA 2; Levski 3 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2.
Nov 7: Montana 0 Svetkavitsa 0.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ludogorets	12	10	1	1	29	5	31
CSKA	12	9	2	1	25	7	29
Chernomorets	12	8	2	2	19	5	26
Lovech	12	7	4	1	23	10	25
Levski	12	8	0	4	21	14	24
Cherno More	12	6	2	4	15	6	20
Lok Plovdiv	12	6	2	4	18	16	20
Slavia	12	6	2	4	18	18	20
Minyor	12	3	4	5	13	15	13
Montana	12	3	4	5	10	19	13
Lok Sofia	12	3	2	7	15	21	11
Botev	12	2	4	6	9	17	10
Beroe	12	3	1	8	11	20	10
V-Rakovski	12	2	3	7	7	22	9
Kaliakra	12	1	3	8	9	22	6
Svetkavitsa	12	0	2	10	3	28	2

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

CROATIA

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	14	12	1	1	34	5	37
Hajduk	14	9	3	2	30	10	30
Split	14	9	3	2	26	14	30
Slaven	14	8	3	3	20	14	27
Osijek	14	6	5	3	21	17	23
Inter	14	7	2	5	16	15	23
Cibalia	14	6	2	6	12	17	20
Zagreb	14	6	1	7	13	20	19
Rijeka	14	4	5	5	14	14	17
Lokomotiva	14	4	4	6	16	16	16
Zadar	14	4	4	6	15	24	16
Karlovac	14	4	2	8	12	25	14
Sibenik	14	3	4	7	13	15	13
Lucko	14	3	4	7	12	17	13
Istra	14	2	5	7	10	18	11
Varazdin	14	0	2	12	6	29	2

Standings on Nov 8
30-round season (15x2); bottom 5 will be relegated

CYPRUS

CYPRUS – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Omonia	9	7	2	0	16	3	23
AEL	9	6	2	1	8	1	20
APOEL	9	5	2	2	13	4	17
Anorthosis	9	4	4	1	9	5	16
Nea Salamina	9	4	2	3	10	11	14
AEK	9	3	4	2	10	8	13
ENP	9	4	1	4	7	5	13
Apollon	9	4	1	4	9	12	13
Alki	9	3	1	5	13	16	10
Olympiakos	9	2	3	4	8	14	9
Aris	9	1	4	4	8	10	7
Anagennisi	9	1	4	4	8	13	7
Ethnikos	9	1	3	5	3	10	6
Ermis	9	0	3	6	1	11	3

Standings on Nov 8
26-round regular season (13x2); top 4 will form championship group, 5th to 8th will form "placement" group, 9th to 12th will form relegation group (from which the bottom team will go down), 13th & 14th will be relegated automatically

CZECH REPUBLIC

Oct 14: Slovacko 1 Plzen 3.
Oct 15: Ostrava 1 Hradec Kralove 0; Sparta 0 Liberec 3.
Oct 16: Jablonec 5 Pribram 1; Ceske Budejovice 1 Teplice 1; Bohemians 1905 0 Dukla 0; Olomouc 1 Mlada Boleslav 1.
Oct 17: Zizkov 1 Slavia 0.
Oct 21: Liberec 3 Ostrava 2.
Oct 22: Pribram 4 Olomouc 1; Dukla 1 Jablonec 3.
Oct 23: Hradec Kralove 0 Slovacko 1; Slavia 2 Ceske Budejovice 0; Plzen 4 Zizkov 1; Mlada Boleslav 2 Bohemians 1905 0.
Oct 24: Teplice 0 Sparta 1.
Oct 28: Bohemians 1905 1 Olomouc 1; Plzen 5 Hradec Kralove 0.
Oct 29: Ostrava 1 Dukla 2; Sparta 0 Mlada Boleslav 3.
Oct 30: Zizkov 1 Liberec 4; Ceske Budejovice 4 Pribram 1; Slovacko 1 Slavia 3.
Oct 31: Jablonec 0 Teplice 1.
Nov 4: Hradec Kralove 0 Jablonec 0.
Nov 5: Liberec 4 Ceske Budejovice 0; Pribram 3 Bohemians 1905 0; Olomouc 0 Sparta 1.
Nov 6: Slavia 2 Plzen 1; Teplice 2 Slovacko 1; Mlada Boleslav 3 Dukla 1.
Nov 7: Zizkov 0 Ostrava 3.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta	13	11	0	2	25	10	33
Liberec	13	8	3	2	31	15	27
M Boleslav	13	7	4	2	22	12	25
Plzen	13	7	3	3	30	17	24
Jablonec	13	7	2	4	32	12	23
Teplice	13	6	2	5	14	16	20
Boh'ians 1905	13	5	4	4	11	17	19
Dukla	13	5	3	5	18	17	18
Slavia	13	5	3	5	13	16	18
Pribram	13	6	0	7	22	26	18
Slovacko	13	5	2	6	13	16	17
H Kralove	13	3	3	7	7	17	12
Ostrava	13	2	2	9	12	25	8
C Budejovice	13	1	4	8	12	27	7
Zizkov	13	2	1	10	9	27	7
Olomouc*	13	3	6	4	15	16	6

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated
**Federation reimposed a 9pt penalty for match-fixing*

DENMARK

Oct 15: Nordsjaelland 1 AaB 0.
Oct 16: Lyngby 2 Silkeborg 3; HB Koge 1 SonderjyskE 3; AGF 0 OB 0; Midtjylland 1 Brondby 0.
Oct 17: Horsens 2 Copenhagen 0.
Oct 22: Lyngby 1 AGF 1.
Oct 23: SonderjyskE 1 Horsens 4; AaB 2 OB 1; HB Koge 1 Midtjylland 1; Silkeborg 2 Brondby 1.
Oct 24: Copenhagen 1 Nordsjaelland 3.
Oct 29: Horsens 1 Silkeborg 1.
Oct 30: AGF 2 HB Koge 0; Nordsjaelland 0 Lyngby 1; Brondby 1 AaB 1; OB 1 Copenhagen 3.
Oct 31: Midtjylland 1 SonderjyskE 1.
Nov 5: AaB 2 Horsens 0.
Nov 6: Silkeborg 4 Midtjylland 1; HB Koge 0 Nordsjaelland 2; Copenhagen 3 Lyngby 0; OB 0 Brondby 0.
Nov 7: SonderjyskE 1 AGF 1.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Copenhagen	15	11	2	2	28	13	35
Nordsjaelland	15	9	1	5	21	12	28
Midtjylland	15	8	2	5	23	21	26
AGF	15	6	7	2	22	14	25
Horsens	15	6	5	4	27	20	23
AaB	15	6	5	4	22	18	23
Silkeborg	15	5	5	5	21	21	20
OB	15	5	4	6	25	27	19
SonderjyskE	15	4	6	5	18	21	18
Brondby	15	3	5	7	17	20	14
Lyngby	15	3	2	10	13	26	11
HB Koge	15	1	2	12	12	36	5

33-round season (11x3); bottom 2 will be relegated

ENGLAND

Saturday, October 15
Chelsea 3 (Sturridge 31, Terry 45+1, Ramires 61)
Everton 1 (Vellios 81) Att: 41,789

Liverpool 1 (Gerrard 68)
Manchester United 1 (Hernandez 81) Att: 45,065

Manchester City 4 (Balotelli 27, Johnson 47, Kompany 51, Milner 71)
Aston Villa 1 (Warnock 65) Att: 47,019

Norwich 3 (Pilkington 1, 62, Martin 10)
Swansea 1 (Graham 12) Att: 26,567

Queens Park Rangers 1 (Helguson 16)
Blackburn 1 (Samba 24) Att: 16,487

Stoke 2 (Walters 80, Delap 87)
Fulham 0 Att: 26,890

Wigan 1 (Diame 40)
Bolton 3 (Reo-Coker 4, Ngog 45+1, Eagles 90+1) Att: 17,261

Sunday, October 16
Arsenal 2 (Van Persie 1, 81)
Sunderland 1 (Larsson 31) Att: 60,078

Newcastle 2 (Ba 48, Ameobi 86)
Tottenham 2 (Van der Vaart pen 40, Defoe 68) Att: 46,420

West Bromwich 2 (Brunt 8, Odemwingie 75)
Wolverhampton 0 Att: 24,872

Saturday, October 22
Aston Villa 1 (Bent pen 23)
West Bromwich 2 (Olsson 45, Scharner 57) Att: 34,152

Bolton 0
Sunderland 2 (Sessegnon 82, Bendtner 90+1) Att: 24,349

Liverpool 1 (Bellamy 45+1)
Norwich 1 (Holt 60) Att: 44,931

Newcastle 1 (Cabaye 81)
Wigan 0 Att: 48,321

Wolverhampton 2 (Doyle 84, O'Hara 86)
Swansea 2 (Graham 23, Allen 35) Att: 25,216

Sunday, October 23
Arsenal 3 (Gervinho 27, Van Persie 73, 82)
Stoke 1 (Crouch 34) Att: 59,671

Blackburn 1 (Formica 28)
Tottenham 2 (Van der Vaart 15, 53) Att: 22,786

Fulham 1 (Ruiz 67)
Everton 3 (Drenthe 3, Saha 90, Rodwell 90+2) Att: 25,646

Manchester United 1 (Fletcher 81)
Manchester City 6 (Balotelli 22, 60, Aguero 69, Dzeko 89, 90+1, Silva 90+3) Att: 75,487

Queens Park Rangers 1 (Helguson pen 10)
Chelsea 0 Att: 18,050

Saturday, October 29
Chelsea 3 (Lampard 14, Terry 45, Mata 80)
Arsenal 5 (Van Persie 36, 85, 90+2, Andre Santos 49, Walcott 55) Att: 41,801

Everton 0
Manchester United 1 (Hernandez 19) Att: 35,494

Manchester City 3 (Dzeko 52, Kolarov 67, Johnson 90+2)
Wolverhampton 1 (Hunt pen 75) Att: 47,142

Norwich 3 (Morison 53, Johnson 82, Holt pen 90+2)
Blackburn 3 (Hoilett 45+1, Yakubu 62, Samba 64) Att: 26,440

Sunderland 2 (Wickham 38, Sessegnon 89)
Aston Villa 2 (Petrov 20, Dunne 85) Att: 37,062

Swansea 3 (Allen 49, Sinclair pen 57, Graham 90+2)
Bolton 1 (Graham og 73) Att: 19,477

West Bromwich 0
Liverpool 2 (Adam pen 9, Carroll 45) Att: 25,522

Wigan 0
Fulham 2 (Dempsey 41, Dembele 87) Att: 15,796

Sunday, October 30
Tottenham 3 (Bale 20, 72, Van der Vaart 33)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Bothroyd 62) Att: 36,147

Monday, October 31
Stoke 1 (Walters pen 75)
Newcastle 3 (Ba 12, 40, pen 81) Att: 26,564

192 goals conceded in 36 league matches by Estonia's Ajax Lasnamae, which was just six short of a European record

ENGLAND

More woes for Wes

The own goal scored by Sunderland's former England defender Wes Brown against his former club Manchester United was the fourth of his career – which is one more than the three he has managed at the other end in 15 years of top-flight football.

FAROE ISLANDS

Nine for B36

B36 Torshavn celebrated their 75th anniversary by winning a ninth Faroese league title and will enter next season's UEFA Champions League in the first qualifying round. EB/Streymur, Vikingur and NSI Runavik will go into the Europa League.

Defending champions HB Torshavn had a poor campaign and only just avoided relegation. Suduroy and TB Tvoroyri will replace Vestur and Sandoy in the top flight next year.

FRANCE

PSG denied record

Paris Saint-Germain were denied a club-record

Top...PSG's Javier Pastore (left)

CLUB FOOTBALL

Saturday, November 5

Arsenal 3 (Van Persie 22, Vermaelen 39, Arteta 74)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 60,091

Aston Villa 3 (Bent 30, 62, Agbonlahor 48)
Norwich 2 (Pilkington 25, Morison 77) Att: 35,290

Blackburn 0
Chelsea 1 (Lampard 51) Att: 21,985

Liverpool 0
Swansea 0 Att: 45,013

Manchester United 1 (Brown og 45+3)
Sunderland 0 Att: 75,570

Newcastle 2 (Heitinga og 12, R Taylor 29)
Everton 1 (Rodwell 45+2) Att: 50,671

Queens Park Rangers 2 (Bothroyd 28, Helguson 69)
Manchester City 3 (Dzeko 43, Silva 52, Y Toure 74) Att: 18,076

Sunday, November 6

Bolton 5 (K Davies 2, Eagles 23, 73, Klasnic 61, 81)
Stoke 0 Att: 20,028

Fulham 1 (Kaboul og 57)
Tottenham 3 (Bale 10, Lennon 45+1, Defoe 90+5) Att: 25,698

Wolverhampton 3 (O'Hara 31, Edwards 55, Ward 66)
Wigan 1 (Watson 42) Att: 23,536

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man City	11	10	1	0	39	10	31
Man United	11	8	2	1	28	12	26
Newcastle	11	7	4	0	17	8	25
Chelsea	11	7	1	3	24	15	22
Tottenham	10	7	1	2	21	15	22
Liverpool	11	5	4	2	14	10	19
Arsenal	11	6	1	4	23	21	19
Aston Villa	11	3	6	2	16	15	15
Norwich	11	3	4	4	16	18	13
Swansea	11	3	4	4	12	15	13
QPR	11	3	3	5	10	20	12
Stoke	11	3	3	5	8	19	12
Wolves	11	3	2	6	12	18	11
West Brom	11	3	2	6	9	16	11
Sunderland	11	2	4	5	14	13	10
Fulham	11	2	4	5	14	15	10
Everton	10	3	1	6	11	15	10
Bolton	11	3	0	8	18	27	9
Blackburn	11	1	3	7	13	24	6
Wigan	11	1	2	8	7	20	5

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading scorers

11 Robin Van Persie (Arsenal)
10 Edin Dzeko (Manchester City)
9 Sergio Aguero (Manchester City)
9 Wayne Rooney (Manchester United)
8 Demba Ba (Newcastle)

ESTONIA

ESTONIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Flora (C)	36	26	8	2	100	24	86
Kalju	36	24	7	5	82	23	79
Trans	36	22	7	7	107	29	73
Levadia	36	21	10	5	76	25	73
Sillamae	36	17	3	16	77	59	54
Paide	36	13	6	17	40	51	45
Tammeka	36	11	6	19	57	75	39
Viljandi	36	8	6	22	37	69	30
Kuressaare*	36	7	5	24	28	68	26
Ajax (R)	36	0	4	32	11	192	4

Kuressaare go into rel/prom play-off

FAROE ISLANDS

FAROE ISLANDS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B36 (C)	27	21	4	2	63	28	67
EB/Streymur	27	19	3	5	66	33	60
Vikingur	27	18	5	4	62	31	59
NSI	27	11	8	8	58	47	41
KI	27	10	4	13	48	50	34
B68	27	9	5	13	44	44	32
IF	27	8	4	15	36	44	28
HB	27	7	5	15	46	56	26
07 Vestur (R)	27	6	6	15	30	65	24
B71 (R)	27	3	2	22	25	80	11

FINLAND

FINLAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HJK (C)	33	26	3	4	86	23	81
Inter	33	16	9	8	70	44	57
JJK	33	14	12	7	60	48	54
Honka	33	13	14	6	57	40	53
TPS	33	13	11	9	48	44	50
KuPS	33	10	10	13	44	55	40
Mariehamn	33	10	8	15	39	47	38
MyPa	33	11	5	17	39	52	38
VPS	33	8	13	12	32	44	37
Haka	33	10	7	16	36	60	37
Jaro	33	7	10	16	49	64	31
RoPS (R)	33	5	8	20	39	78	23

FRANCE

Saturday, October 15

Auxerre 1 (Oliech 36)
Lille 3 (Payet 71, Jelen 82, Debuchy pen 90+5) Att: 11,175

Brest 1 (Grougi 45)
Caen 1 (Heurtaux 85) Att: 13,012

Evian 1 (Sagbo 59)
Saint-Etienne 2 (Battles 47, Aubameyang 51) Att: 14,498

Lyon 3 (Michel Bastos 26, pen 31, Gomis 28)
Nancy 1 (Jung 88) Att: 33,825

Montpellier 5 (Paulle og 25, Giroud 50, pen 58, 81, Camara 64)
Dijon 3 (Corgnet 9, 11, Guerbert 90) Att: 16,000

Nice 3 (Mouloungui 11, Hellebuyck 35, Clerc 65)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 9,269

Toulouse 0
Marseille 0 Att: 30,082

Sunday, October 16

Ajaccio 1 (Medjani 24)
Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Gameiro 2, 50, 53) Att: 8,155

Rennes 2 (Kembo 10, Pitroipa pen 63)
Lorient 0 Att: 18,502

Valenciennes 3 (Aboubakar 43, 75, Kadir 71)
Sochaux 0 Att: 13,478

Saturday, October 22

Bordeaux 1 (Gouffran 52)
Brest 1 (Ben Basat 63) Att: 16,428

Caen 1 (Nivet pen 82)
Montpellier 3 (Yanga-Mbiwa 14, Utaka 20, Belhanda 79) Att: 14,290

Lorient 0
Toulouse 0 Att: 15,715

Marseille 2 (A Ayew 30, 49)
Ajaccio 0 Att: 39,786

Nancy 1 (Niculae 54)
Nice 0 Att: 13,652

Saint-Etienne 1 (Battles 50)
Valenciennes 0 Att: 20,083

Sochaux 1 (Butin 51)
Evian 1 (Angoula 90+2) Att: 12,331

Sunday, October 23

Auxerre 0
Rennes 1 (Feret 75) Att: 9,514

Lille 3 (Sow 45+1, Basa 64, Cole 83)
Lyon 1 (Briand 22) Att: 17,247

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Nene 42, 90)
Dijon 0 Att: 44,071

Saturday, October 29

Ajaccio 0
Bordeaux 2 (Gouffran 25, 28) Att: 5,667

Brest 3 (Toure 4, Grougi 34, pen 42)
Lorient 1 (Ecuele Manga 54) Att: 14,421

Dijon 2 (Jovial 46, Corgnet 62)
Marseille 3 (Remy 1, Cheyrou 12, Diarra 82) Att: 15,081

Evian 3 (Sagbo 14, 42, Barbosa 68)
Auxerre 1 (Dudka pen 70) Att: 11,060

Lyon 2 (Briand 81, Gourcuff 90+1)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 38,982

Montpellier 2 (Giroud 61, Camara 74)
Nancy 0 Att: 11,683

Paris Saint-Germain 4 (Nene pen 20, 76, Menez 56, Pastore 89)
Caen 2 (Heurtaux 12, Vandam 82) Att: 43,812

Sunday, October 30

Nice 1 (Mouloungui 30)
Sochaux 1 (Boudebouz pen 35) Att: 8,714

Toulouse 1 (Didot 26)
Rennes 0 Att: 15,163

Valenciennes 0
Lille 0 Att: 21,493

Saturday, November 5

Lille 1 (Pedretti 63)
Evian 1 (Khelifa 4) Att: 16,673

Sunday, November 6

Auxerre 2 (Sanogo 69, Contout 88)
Toulouse 0 Att: 11,000

Bordeaux 1 (Gouffran 13)
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Sissoko 10) Att: 29,496

Caen 3 (Leca 36, Bulot 66, Frau 72)
Dijon 0 Att: 14,387

Lorient 2 (Jouffre 63, Sunu 82)
Ajaccio 0 Att: 15,672

Marseille 2 (J Ayew 73, Remy pen 90+6)
Nice 0 Att: 39,716

Nancy 2 (Jung 64, Niculae 88)
Brest 1 (Lesoimier 85) Att: 14,029

Rennes 1 (Kembo 21)
Valenciennes 1 (Gomis 29) Att: 22,006

Saint-Etienne 1 (Nicolita 31)
Montpellier 1 (Marveaux 58) Att: 18,788

Sochaux 2 (Cissokho og 10, Boudebouz pen 43)
Lyon 1 (Lacazette 14) Att: 14,611

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSG	13	9	3	1	26	11	30
Montpellier	13	8	3	2	28	16	27
Lille	13	6	6	1	22	13	24
Lyon	13	7	2	4	21	15	23
Rennes	13	6	4	3	22	16	22
Toulouse	13	6	4	3	13	12	22
Lorient	13	5	5	3	15	12	20
Marseille	13	4	6	3	17	14	18
Caen	13	5	3	5	20	19	18
Saint-Etienne	13	4	5	4	12	16	17
Sochaux	13	4	5	4	20	25	17
Auxerre	13	3	6	4	19	18	15
Evian	13	2	7	4	15	18	13
Bordeaux	13	2	7	4	15	19	13
Brest	13	1	9	3	13	14	12
Valenciennes	13	2	5	6	13	14	11
Nice	13	2	5	6	12	14	11
Nancy	13	2	5	6	10	16	11
Dijon	13	3	2	8	13	28	11
Ajaccio	13	1	4	8	10	26	7

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading scorers

8 Kevin Gameiro (Paris Saint-Germain)
8 Olivier Giroud (Montpellier)
7 Bafetimbi Gomis (Lyon)

seventh straight league victory when they were held 1-1 at Bordeaux. They remained three points clear at the top of Ligue 1, however, as second-place Montpellier also drew 1-1, away to Saint-Etienne.

GERMANY

Goals flow for Gomez

Mario Gomez scored his sixth goal in his last three games as Bayern Munich stayed five points clear at the top of the Bundesliga with a 2-1 win away to bottom side Augsburg. The 26-year-old striker has now scored 13 goals in 11 league appearances this season.

Second-place Borussia Dortmund made it five wins in their last six games with a 5-1 victory at home to Wolfsburg to keep up the pressure on Bayern.

On fire...Gomez holds off Sebastian Langkamp of Augsburg

HOLLAND

Ajax in 10-goal thriller

Utrecht recorded a stunning 6-4 victory over Ajax with goals from Nana Asare (two) , Edouard Duplan, Daan Bovenberg, Jacob Mulenga and Anouar Kali. The visitors, who suffered only their second loss in the league, replied through Dmitry Bulykin (two), Andre Ooijer and Christian Eriksen.

GERMANY

Friday, October 14
Werder Bremen 0
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Perisic 42, Owomoyela 71)
Att: 42,068

Saturday, October 15
Bayern Munich 4 (Gomez 5, pen 69, Ribery 7, Schweinsteiger 13)
Hertha 0 Att: 69,000

Mainz 0
Augsburg 1 (Callsen-Bracker pen 88) Att: 30,195

Monchengladbach 2 (Reus 65, Herrmann 72)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Reinartz 20, Schurrle 87)
Att: 52,858

Schalke 1 (Huntelaar pen 62)
Kaiserslautern 2 (Tiffert pen 30, Kouemaha 72)
Att: 61,673

Stuttgart 2 (Okazaki 48, Pogrebnyak pen 77)
1899 Hoffenheim 0 Att: 55,000

Wolfsburg 2 (Mandzukic 24, pen 83)
Nuremberg 1 (Eigler 70) Att: 27,112

Sunday, October 16
Cologne 2 (Podolski 24, 86)
Hanover 0 Att: 46,000

Freiburg 1 (Cisse 47)
Hamburg 2 (Son 12, Ilicevic 73) Att: 24,000

Friday, October 21
Augsburg 1 (Bellinghausen 49)
Werder Bremen 1 (Pizarro 68) Att: 30,660

Saturday, October 22
Borussia Dortmund 5 (Kagawa 7, Schmelzer 25, Lewandowski 44, 50, Kehl 66)
Cologne 0 Att: 80,200

Hamburg 1 (Petric 56)
Wolfsburg 1 (Mandzukic 2) Att: 54,378

Hertha 0
Mainz 0 Att: 47,064

1899 Hoffenheim 1 (Ibisevic 56)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 30,150

Kaiserslautern 1 (Shechter 75)
Freiburg 0 Att: 40,748

Nuremberg 2 (Simons 9, Wollscheid 70)
Stuttgart 2 (Kuzmanovic pen 61, Rodriguez 84)
Att: 46,486

Sunday, October 23
Bayer Leverkusen 0
Schalke 1 (Farfan 82) Att: 30,210

Hanover 2 (Abdellaoue pen 23, Pander 50)
Bayern Munich 1 (Alaba 83) Att: 49,000

Friday, October 28
Freiburg 0
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Ballack 2) Att: 22,300

Saturday, October 29
Bayern Munich 4 (Gomez 2, 68, Schweinsteiger 19, Ribery 39)
Nuremberg 0 Att: 69,000

Mainz 1 (Bungert 23)
Werder Bremen 3 (Pizarro 29, Hunt 47, Prodl 78)
Att: 34,000

Monchengladbach 2 (Reus 21, 51)
Hanover 1 (Pogatetz 26) Att: 51,036

Schalke 3 (Raul 28, Huntelaar pen 73, 76)
1899 Hoffenheim 1 (Ibisevic 63) Att: 60,384

Stuttgart 1 (Tasci 22)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Piszczek 45+1) Att: 60,000

Wolfsburg 2 (Mandzukic 31, Schafer 84)
Hertha 3 (Raffael 27, Kobiashvili pen 37, Lasogga 85) Att: 30,000

Sunday, October 30
Cologne 3 (Podolski 19, pen 24, Peszko 56)
Augsburg 0 Att: 48,000

Hamburg 1 (Guerrero 64)
Kaiserslautern 1 (De Wit 38) Att: 55,348

Friday, November 4
Mainz 3 (Ujah 53, 64, Ivanschitz pen 60)
Stuttgart 1 (Cacau 50) Att: 34,000

Saturday, November 5
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Schurrle 5, Bender 20)
Hamburg 2 (Westermann 34, Jansen 57) Att: 30,210

Borussia Dortmund 5 (Gotze 12, 78, Kagawa 45, Bender 61, Lewandowski 66)
Wolfsburg 1 (Hleb 59) Att: 80,720

Hertha 1 (Ramos 18)
Monchengladbach 2 (Reus 33, 55) Att: 60,556

1899 Hoffenheim 1 (Ibisevic 33)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Kouemaha 73) Att: 30,150

Nuremberg 1 (Frantz 32)
Freiburg 2 (Rosenthal 34, Cisse pen 90+3) Att: 38,026

Werder Bremen 3 (Pizarro 49, pen 54, 86)
Cologne 2 (Clemens 3, Podolski 45) Att: 41,500

Sunday, November 6
Augsburg 1 (Hosogai 59)
Bayern Munich 2 (Gomez 16, Ribery 28) Att: 30,660

Hanover 2 (Papadopoulos og 29, Abdellaoue 59)
Schalke 2 (Pukki 26, 73) Att: 49,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern	12	9	1	2	32	4	28
Dortmund	12	7	2	3	26	9	23
Werder	12	7	2	3	23	16	23
M'gladbach	12	7	2	3	15	9	23
Schalke	12	7	1	4	24	18	22
Hanover	12	5	4	3	16	17	19
Stuttgart	12	5	3	4	18	12	18
Leverkusen	12	5	3	4	15	16	18
Hoffenheim	12	5	2	5	15	13	17
Hertha	12	4	4	4	16	17	16
Cologne	12	5	1	6	20	26	16
Kaiserslautern	12	3	4	5	10	15	13
Wolfsburg	12	4	1	7	15	25	13
Mainz	12	3	3	6	16	23	12
Nuremberg	12	3	3	6	13	20	12
Hamburg	12	2	4	6	15	25	10
Freiburg	12	3	1	8	16	27	10
Augsburg	12	1	5	6	9	22	8

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

Leading scorers
13 Mario Gomez (Bayern Munich)
11 Claudio Pizarro (Werder Bremen)
10 Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Schalke)
9 Lukas Podolski (Cologne)

GREECE

Oct 15: Kerkyra 2 Atromitos 2; AEK 1 Olympiakos 1.
Oct 16: Giannina 0 Panionios 0; Xanthi 2 Panathinaikos 3; Ergotelis 1 Aris 1; PAOK 0 OFI 0.
Oct 22: Asteras 1 Xanthi 1; Atromitos 1 Giannina 0; Panathinaikos 4 Ergotelis 0.
Oct 23: OFI 3 AEK 1; Panionios 0 Olympiakos 3; Aris 1 PAOK 1.
Oct 29: Atromitos 2 Panionios 1; Panetolikos 2 Xanthi 0; Olympiakos 2 OFI 2.
Oct 30: Ergotelis 2 Asteras 0; AEK 3 Aris 0; PAOK 1 Panathinaikos 3.
Nov 5: Panionios 1 OFI 3; Aris 2 Olympiakos 3.
Nov 6: Ergotelis 0 Panetolikos 0; Asteras 1 PAOK 0; Xanthi 1 Kerkyra 0; Panathinaikos 3 AEK 2.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	7	6	1	0	19	7	19
Olympiakos	7	5	2	0	16	9	17
Atromitos	8	4	4	0	10	6	16
AEK	8	4	1	3	13	13	13
OFI	7	3	3	1	11	8	12
Panetolikos	7	3	2	2	9	7	11
PAOK	9	3	2	4	10	10	11
Giannina	7	2	3	2	8	8	9
Ergotelis	9	2	3	4	9	13	9
Xanthi	9	2	2	5	11	14	8
Panionios	9	2	2	5	9	13	8
Asteras	7	1	3	3	3	7	6
Aris	7	0	4	3	4	9	4
Kerkyra	7	0	2	5	5	13	2
Doxa*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Levadiakos*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

30-round season (15x2); teams placed 2nd to 5th will enter play-offs to determine Greece's 2nd Champions League representatives; number of teams to be relegated to be confirmed
**The participation of Doxa and Levadiakos is subject to the outcome of ongoing legal cases*

HOLLAND

Oct 15: Ajax 2 AZ 2; Heerenveen 1 De Graafschap 1; RKC 0 Twente 4; Heracles 2 Groningen 1; PSV 1 Utrecht 0.
Oct 16: NEC 0 Vitesse 1; Roda JC 4 Den Haag 1; Feyenoord 4 VVV 0; NAC 2 Excelsior 0.
Oct 21: De Graafschap 3 NAC 1.
Oct 22: VVV 4 RKC 1; Excelsior 0 Heracles 2; Den Haag 1 NEC 0; Utrecht 1 Heerenveen 4.
Oct 23: Ajax 1 Feyenoord 1; AZ 1 Roda JC 0; Groningen 1 Twente 1; Vitesse 1 PSV 1.
Oct 28: NAC 3 VVV 1.
Oct 29: Roda JC 0 Ajax 4; Excelsior 1 RKC 0; Heerenveen 4 Den Haag 0; Twente 2 PSV 2.
Oct 30: De Graafschap 0 Vitesse 1; Groningen 6 Feyenoord 0; NEC 3 Utrecht 1; Heracles 0 AZ 1.
Nov 4: VVV 0 Excelsior 0.
Nov 5: NAC 1 Vitesse 0; Roda JC 1 Heerenveen 2; RKC 1 Groningen 1; Feyenoord 0 NEC 1.
Nov 6: Utrecht 6 Ajax 4; Twente 4 De Graafschap 0; AZ 3 Den Haag 0; PSV 4 Heracles 1.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AZ	12	10	1	1	28	8	31
Twente	12	7	4	1	32	12	25
PSV	12	7	4	1	33	14	25
Vitesse	12	6	3	3	18	12	21
Ajax	12	5	5	2	32	20	20
Heerenveen	12	5	5	2	25	19	20
Groningen	12	5	3	4	22	18	18
Feyenoord	12	5	3	4	21	17	18
Heracles	12	4	4	4	18	18	16
NAC	12	5	1	6	18	19	16
Utrecht	12	4	3	5	22	22	15
RKC	12	4	2	6	12	19	14
NEC	12	4	1	7	11	17	13
Den Haag	12	4	1	7	14	24	13
Roda JC	12	4	0	8	15	33	12
De Graafschap	12	2	3	7	11	26	9
VVV	12	1	4	7	12	29	7
Excelsior	12	1	3	8	7	24	6

34-round season (17x2); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd & 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

ICELAND

ICELAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
KR (C)	22	13	8	1	44	22	47
FH	22	13	5	4	48	31	44
IBV	22	12	4	6	37	27	40
Stjarnan	22	10	7	5	51	35	37
Valur	22	10	6	6	28	23	36
Breidablik	22	7	6	9	34	42	27
Fylkir	22	7	4	11	34	44	25
Keflavik	22	7	3	12	27	32	24
Fram	22	6	6	10	20	28	24
Grindavik	22	5	8	9	26	37	23
Thor (R)	22	6	3	13	28	41	21
Vikingur (R)	22	3	6	13	24	39	15

ISRAEL

ISRAEL – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
H Tel Aviv	11	7	2	2	23	6	23
M Tel Aviv	11	6	2	3	19	9	20
Kiryat Shmona	11	5	5	1	14	7	20
Acre	11	5	3	3	18	13	18
Ashdod	11	5	3	3	15	13	18
Netanya	11	5	3	3	16	15	18
M Haifa	11	4	4	3	21	14	16
Bnei Yehuda	11	4	4	3	10	9	16
R HaSharon	11	5	1	5	14	19	16
Bnei Sakhnin*	11	5	2	4	19	13	15
Beitar	11	4	2	5	9	13	14
M Petah Tikva	11	3	3	5	14	21	12
Rishon LeZion	11	2	4	5	12	23	10
H Haifa	11	1	4	6	8	16	7
Be'er Sheva	11	1	1	9	9	24	4
H Petah Tikva**	11	2	5	4	10	16	2

Standings on Nov 8
30-round regular season (15x2); top 8 will form championship group, bottom 8 will form relegation group (from which 3 will go down)
**2pts deducted for contract irregularities*
***9pts deducted for going into administration*

KAZAKHSTAN

Shakhter's first title

Shakhter Karagandy beat Astana 2-0 on the final day of the season to win their first Kazakh championship. The league's top scorer Sergei Khizhnichenko got both goals, taking his tally for the campaign to 16.

While Shakhter enter next season's Champions League at the second qualifying round, Zhetysu Taldykorgan and Aktobe will go into the Europa League.

Two-time champions Kairat Almaty were relegated for the second time in three years, going down with Vostok Oskemen.

LITHUANIA

Four in a row

Ekranas finished the season with a fourth successive championship and a second consecutive clean sweep of the domestic trophies. After just one loss in the league, Valdas Urbonas' side clinched the title with a 1-0 win at Tauras, with a goal from Mantas Savenas. They also won the Super Cup and Lithuanian Cup.

Resurgent Zalgiris finished second for the first time in a decade, with Suduva third.

MOLDOVA

Bursuc sees red

Sfintul Gheorge midfielder Julian Bursuc announced his immediate retirement after he punched referee Ghenadie Sidenco as his side trailed 1-0 away to Iskra-Stal in a top-flight league game.

The 35-year-old was one of four players sent off as Iskra-Stal won 3-0.

Final double...Barrantes

ITALY

Saturday, October 15
Catania 2 (Almiron 47, Lodi pen 50)
Internazionale 1 (Cambiasso 6) Att: 13,000

Milan 3 (Nocerino 40, Robinho 55, Cassano 64)
Palermo 0 Att: 53,000

Napoli 1 (Mascara 76)
Parma 2 (Gobbi 57, Modesto 82) Att: 48,000

Sunday, October 16
Atalanta 0
Udinese 0 Att: 14,444

Cagliari 0
Siena 0 Att: 10,000

Cesena 0
Fiorentina 0 Att: 16,308

Chievo 0
Juventus 0 Att: 30,000

Genoa 0
Lecce 0 Att: 20,101

Lazio 2 (Hernanes pen 51, Klose 90+3)
Roma 1 (Osvaldo 5) Att: 51,265

Novara 0
Bologna 2 (Ramirez 45+2, Acquafresca 64) Att: 10,033

Saturday, October 22
Fiorentina 2 (Jovetic 20, 62)
Catania 2 (Delvecchio 43, Lopez 82) Att: 24,000

Juventus 2 (Matri 6, 58)
Genoa 2 (Rossi 31, Caracciolo 85) Att: 24,000

Sunday, October 23
Bologna 0
Lazio 2 (Acquafresca og 23, Lulic 48) Att: 17,851

Cagliari 0
Napoli 0 Att: 11,000

Internazionale 1 (Thiago Motta 34)
Chievo 0 Att: 48,058

Lecce 3 (Giacomazzi 4, Oddo pen 30, Grossmuller 37)
Milan 4 (Boateng 49, 55, 63, Yepes 83) Att: 13,295

Parma 1 (Valdes 80)
Atalanta 2 (Moralez 55, 58) Att: 12,877

Roma 1 (Lamela 8)
Palermo 0 Att: 35,738

Siena 2 (Gonzalez 9, Calaio 53)
Cesena 0 Att: 14,000

Udinese 3 (Di Natale 33, 49, Domizzi 40)
Novara 0 Att: 15,988

Tuesday, October 25
Juventus 2 (Bonucci 13, Matri 65)
Fiorentina 1 (Jovetic 58) Att: 35,517

Wednesday, October 26
Atalanta 1 (Denis 44)
Internazionale 1 (Sneijder 32) Att: 19,613

Cesena 1 (Candreva pen 45+1)
Cagliari 1 (Nene pen 18) Att: 14,482

Chievo 0
Bologna 1 (Acquafresca 53) Att: 12,000

Genoa 2 (Jankovic 38, Kucka 89)
Roma 1 (Borini 82) Att: 21,235

Lazio 1 (Klose 17)
Catania 1 (Bergessio 63) Att: 26,951

Milan 4 (Nocerino 30, 32, 90+2, Ibrahimovic 73)
Parma 1 (Giovinco 78) Att: 35,753

Napoli 2 (Lavezzi 19, Maggio 44)
Udinese 0 Att: 35,565

Novara 1 (Gemiti 80)
Siena 1 (Calaio 18) Att: 8,384

Thursday, October 27
Palermo 2 (Pinilla pen 28, Hernandez 78)
Lecce 0 Att: 19,730

Saturday, October 29
Catania 2 (Marchese 25, Bergessio 48)
Napoli 1 (Cavani 1) Att: 10,000

Internazionale 1 (Maicon 28)
Juventus 2 (Vucinic 12, Marchisio 33) Att: 78,072

Roma 2 (Burdisso 28, Bojan 88)
Milan 3 (Ibrahimovic 17, 78, Nesta 30) Att: 43,978

Sunday, October 30
Bologna 3 (Di Vaio pen 45+3, Ramirez 48, Loria 68)
Atalanta 1 (Denis 7) Att: 17,850

Cagliari 0
Lazio 3 (Lulic 39, Klose 44, Rocchi 88) Att: 12,500

Fiorentina 1 (Lazzari 41)
Genoa 0 Att: 19,312

Lecce 1 (Strasser 31)
Novara 1 (Rigoni pen 44) Att: 6,223

Parma 2 (Paletta 42, Lucarelli 72)
Cesena 0 Att: 12,365

Siena 4 (Destro 25, 57, D'Agostino 61, Calaio 90+4)
Chievo 1 (Moscardelli 75) Att: 8,472

Udinese 1 (Di Natale 38)
Palermo 0 Att: 17,325

Saturday, November 5
Novara 0
Roma 2 (Bojan 73, Osvaldo 76) Att: 11,958

Palermo 3 (Zahavi 13, Silvestre 52, Ilicic 75)
Bologna 1 (Ramirez 87) Att: 24,000

Sunday, November 6
Atalanta 1 (Denis 81)
Cagliari 0 Att: 11,604

Cesena 0
Lecce 1 (Cuadrado 56) Att: 15,182

Chievo 1 (Rigoni 66)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 12,000

Lazio 1 (Sculli 85)
Parma 0 Att: 29,564

Milan 4 (Ibrahimovic pen 7, Robinho 24, Lodi og 69, Zambrotta 72)
Catania 0 Att: 44,091

Udinese 2 (Basta 1, Di Natale 64)
Siena 1 (Bolzoni 77) Att: 16,033

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Udinese	10	6	3	1	13	4	21
Lazio	10	6	3	1	16	8	21
Milan	10	6	2	2	23	14	20
Juventus	9	5	4	0	15	7	19
Palermo	10	5	1	4	14	12	16
Napoli	9	4	2	3	13	7	14
Roma	10	4	2	4	13	11	14
Catania	10	3	5	2	12	16	14
Siena	10	3	4	3	12	8	13
Cagliari	10	3	4	3	9	10	13
Atalanta*	10	5	3	2	13	12	12
Genoa	9	3	3	3	13	12	12
Fiorentina	10	3	3	4	10	9	12
Chievo	10	3	3	4	8	11	12
Parma	10	4	0	6	12	18	12
Bologna	10	3	1	6	9	16	10
Inter	9	2	2	5	11	16	8
Lecce	10	2	2	6	8	16	8
Novara	10	1	4	5	12	19	7
Cesena	10	0	3	7	3	13	3

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will go down
**6pts deducted because of involvement in match-fixing scandal*

Leading scorers
8 Antonio Di Natale (Udinese)
7 German Denis (Atalanta)
6 Sebastian Giovinco (Parma)
6 Miroslav Klose (Lazio)

KAZAKHSTAN

Division split after 22-round regular season; teams carried forward half their points and their full goals record

KAZAKHSTAN – CHAMP'SHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhter (C)	32	19	6	7	52	29	42
Zhetysu	32	19	5	8	51	27	38
Aktobe	32	15	9	8	53	31	34
Astana	32	16	7	9	50	37	33
Irtysh	32	15	5	12	50	50	32
Ordabasy	32	11	10	11	41	36	28

KAZAKHSTAN – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tobol	32	14	3	15	48	44	32
Kaisar	32	10	5	17	29	53	27
Taraz	32	10	5	17	30	39	25
Atyrau	32	8	10	14	28	43	24
Kairat (R)	32	8	8	16	30	49	22
Vostok* (R)	32	5	11	16	23	47	14

**3pts deducted*

LATVIA

LATVIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ventspils (C)	32	22	5	5	75	19	71
Metalurgs	32	22	4	6	72	26	70
Daugava	32	19	6	7	58	30	63
Skonto	32	17	9	6	62	21	60
FC Jurmala	32	12	8	12	46	43	44
Jelgava	32	13	4	15	47	54	43
Gulbene	32	7	7	18	39	67	28
FK Jurmala	32	5	6	21	35	76	21
Olimps/RFS*	32	1	3	28	19	117	6

**Olimps/RFS go into rel/prom play-off*

LITHUANIA

LITHUANIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ekranas (C)	33	24	8	1	68	14	80
Zalgiris	33	22	6	5	56	17	72
Suduva	33	19	8	6	70	19	65
Siauliai	33	16	11	6	45	30	59
Kruoja	33	13	10	10	43	34	49
Banga	33	13	7	13	51	37	46
Tauras	33	11	12	10	50	38	45
Dainava	33	13	6	14	53	54	45
Mazeikiai	33	9	9	15	36	54	36
Kaunas*	33	8	8	17	41	53	26
Atlantas (R)	33	3	2	28	28	121	11
Klaipeda (R)	33	2	3	28	19	89	9

**6pts deducted for licence irregularities*

NORWAY

Oct 14: Valerenga 3 Viking 0.
Oct 15: Lillestrom 1 Stabaek 1.
Oct 16: Molde 0 Odd Grenland 0; Haugesund 3 Fredrikstad 2; Sogndal 1 Stromsgodset 1; Sarpsborg 0 Tromso 2; Rosenborg 2 Aalesund 2.
Oct 17: Start 3 Brann 1.
Oct 21: Stabaek 1 Molde 1.
Oct 23: Tromso 0 Sogndal 0; Brann 1 Sarpsborg 0; Odd Grenland 1 Haugesund 0; Viking 2 Lillestrom 0; Stromsgodset 3 Rosenborg 1.
Oct 24: Aalesund 2 Valerenga 1.
Oct 26: Rosenborg 2 Fredrikstad 0.
Oct 27: Aalesund 2 Stabaek 0.
Oct 28: Haugesund 1 Tromso 1.
Oct 30: Sogndal 0 Stabaek 0; Start 1 Odd Grenland 3; Lillestrom 1 Aalesund 1; Sarpsborg 1 Viking 1; Molde 2 Stromsgodset 2; Rosenborg 3 Brann 6.
Oct 31: Valerenga 1 Fredrikstad 2.
Nov 5: Fredrikstad 1 Start 1.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Molde (C)	28	16	7	5	50	35	55
Tromso	28	13	8	7	47	32	47
Rosenborg	28	13	7	8	65	39	46
Brann	28	13	6	9	48	46	45
Odd Grenland	28	13	6	9	41	41	45
Valerenga	28	13	5	10	39	31	44
Stromsgodset	28	11	9	8	41	37	42
Haugesund	28	12	5	11	48	41	41
Aalesund	28	11	7	10	32	34	40
Stabaek	28	11	6	11	43	46	39
Viking	28	9	9	10	30	36	36
Lillestrom	28	9	6	13	46	50	33
Fredrikstad	28	9	5	14	35	40	32
Sogndal	28	7	10	11	22	29	31
Start	28	7	4	17	37	54	25
Sarpsborg (R)	28	4	6	18	27	60	18

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

NORWAY

Aalesund Cup success

Michael Barrantes from Costa Rica scored both goals as Aalesund beat Brann 2-1 in the Norwegian Cup Final.

ROMANIA

Players injured by fans

Steaua Bucharest defender George Galamaz suffered a broken right cheekbone after being punched by an opposition supporter in his side's away game against Petrolul Ploiesti.

Steaua goalkeeper Ciprian Tatarusanu also suffered severe burns after being hit by a firecracker thrown from the stands.

The game was abandoned just before half-time with the visitors leading 2-0.

Payback...Steaua take revenge on a fan who attacked one of their own

RUSSIA

Zenit halfway there

Reigning champions Zenit were top of the table as the league split in two ahead of a rare mid-winter break.

Having made up seven points on CSKA Moscow, Zenit now lead by two points as the top-eight teams prepare to play each other twice more for the title and European places.

POLAND

Oct 14: Podbeskidzie 1 Cracovia 0; Lech 1 Korona 0.
Oct 15: GKS 3 Slask 0; Polonia 1 Gornik 1; Wisla 3 Jagiellonia 1.
Oct 16: Zaglebie 0 Lechia 1; Ruch 0 Legia 1.
Oct 17: Widzew 0 LKS 1.
Oct 21: Zaglebie 3 Korona 1; Gornik 1 Ruch 2.
Oct 22: Jagiellonia 1 GKS 0; Slask 1 Podbeskidzie 0; Lechia 0 Lech 0.
Oct 23: LKS 1 Wisla 2; Legia 2 Widzew 0.
Oct 24: Cracovia 0 Polonia 0.
Oct 28: Gornik 2 Jagiellonia 0; Slask 1 Lechia 0.
Oct 29: GKS 2 Zaglebie 1; Widzew 1 Cracovia 0; Wisla 0 Podbeskidzie 1.
Oct 30: Korona 0 LKS 2; Lech 0 Legia 0.
Oct 31: Ruch 0 Polonia 1.
Nov 4: Podbeskidzie 1 Gornik 1; Polonia 1 Lech 0.
Nov 5: Korona 2 GKS 2; LKS 0 Ruch 4; Lechia 0 Widzew 0.
Nov 6: Zaglebie 1 Slask 5; Cracovia 1 Wisla 0.
Nov 7: Jagiellonia 0 Legia 0.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slask	13	9	1	3	25	11	28
Legia	12	7	2	3	19	9	23
Ruch	13	7	1	5	19	15	22
Polonia	13	6	4	3	13	12	22
Lech	13	6	3	4	22	9	21
Wisla	13	6	3	4	14	11	21
Korona	13	5	5	3	16	15	20
Widzew	13	4	6	3	11	11	18
Jagiellonia	13	5	3	5	18	22	18
Podbeskidzie	13	4	4	5	11	17	16
Lechia	13	3	5	5	6	8	14
Gornik	13	3	5	5	13	16	14
LKS	13	4	2	7	10	24	14
GKS	13	3	3	7	15	16	12
Zaglebie	12	2	4	6	11	18	10
Cracovia	13	2	3	8	7	16	9

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

PORTUGAL

Oct 21: Pacos Ferreira 2 Academica 0.
Oct 22: Olhanense 1 Guimaraes 0; Beira Mar 0 Benfica 1.
Oct 23: Maritimo 1 Setubal 0; Rio Ave 2 Uniao Leiria 0; Porto 5 Nacional 0; Braga 3 Feirense 0.
Oct 24: Sporting 6 Gil Vicente 1.
Oct 28: Porto 3 Pacos Ferreira 0.
Oct 29: Academica 0 Braga 0; Benfica 2 Olhanense 1.
Oct 30: Nacional 2 Beira Mar 1; Uniao Leiria 2 Setubal 0; Guimaraes 2 Rio Ave 1; Feirense 0 Sporting 2.
Nov 1: Gil Vicente 0 Maritimo 0.
Nov 4: Pacos Ferreira 1 Guimaraes 5.
Nov 5: Maritimo 3 Academica 2; Olhanense 0 Porto 0.
Nov 6: Beira Mar 2 Feirense 1; Rio Ave 2 Nacional 1; Setubal 0 Gil Vicente 0; Braga 1 Benfica 1; Sporting 3 Uniao Leiria 1.

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	10	7	3	0	25	5	24
Benfica	10	7	3	0	23	10	24
Sporting	10	7	2	1	24	10	23
Maritimo	10	6	3	1	16	11	21
Braga	10	5	4	1	13	4	19
Olhanense	10	3	4	3	10	10	13
Academica	10	4	1	5	14	15	13
Gil Vicente	10	2	5	3	10	16	11
Setubal	10	3	2	5	7	14	11
Guimaraes	10	3	1	6	14	14	10
Beira Mar	10	2	4	4	6	6	10
Nacional	10	3	1	6	6	20	10
Uniao Leiria	10	3	0	7	11	19	9
Rio Ave	10	2	2	6	9	12	8
P Ferreira	10	2	1	7	10	21	7
Feirense	10	1	4	5	6	17	7

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Oct 8: Dundalk 0 Derry 2; St Patrick's 1 Sligo 0; Bohemians 2 UCD 0; Galway 1 Drogheda 2.
Oct 9: Bray 1 Shamrock 2.
Oct 13: Shamrock 1 Derry 0.
Oct 14: Drogheda 1 Bray 4.
Oct 16: Derry 4 Galway 0.
Oct 21: Bohemians 0 Sligo 3; Dundalk 1 Drogheda 0; Galway 0 Bray 6; St Patrick's 1 Derry 1.
Oct 25: UCD 1 Shamrock 2.
Oct 28: Bray 1 Dundalk 0; Derry 0 Bohemians 0; Shamrock 4 Galway 0; Sligo 4 UCD 2; Drogheda 4 St Patrick's 3.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shamrock (C)	36	23	8	5	69	24	77
Sligo	36	22	7	7	73	19	73
Derry	36	18	14	4	63	23	68
St Patrick's	36	17	12	7	62	35	63
Bohemians	36	17	9	10	39	27	60
Bray	36	15	6	15	53	50	51
Dundalk	36	11	11	14	50	53	44
UCD	36	10	4	22	42	80	34
Drogheda	36	7	4	25	32	77	25
Galway (R)*	36	1	3	32	20	115	6

**Galway went down after losing the rel/prom play-off, against Monaghan United, 5-1 on agg*

ROMANIA

Oct 14: Rapid 4 Mioveni 0; Otelul 1 Astra 1.
Oct 15: Sportul 1 Tirgu-Mures 1; Petrolul 4 Vointa 1; Concordia 0 CFR 4.
Oct 16: Universitatea 1 Brasov 0; Vaslui 0 Steaua 0.
Oct 17: Pandurii 1 Gaz Metan 0; Ceahlaul 0 Dinamo 5.
Oct 21: Gaz Metan 3 Sportul 1; Pandurii 1 Universitatea 0.
Oct 22: Vointa 1 Concordia 0; CFR 2 Ceahlaul 1; Tirgu-Mures 1 Otelul 2.
Oct 23: Mioveni 0 Petrolul 0; Dinamo 0 Brasov 0.
Oct 24: Astra 1 Vaslui 0; Steaua 0 Rapid 0.
Oct 28: Otelul 1 Gaz Metan 0.
Oct 29: Ceahlaul 2 Vointa 1; Universitatea 0 Dinamo 0.
Oct 30: Sportul 0 Pandurii 0; Vaslui 4 Tirgu-Mures 0; Rapid 3 Astra 2; Petrolul 0 Steaua 3 (awarded).
Oct 31: Concordia 3 Mioveni 1; Brasov 1 CFR 2.
Nov 4: Mioveni 1 Ceahlaul 2.
Nov 5: Vointa 2 Brasov 1; Astra 1 Petrolul 1; CFR 2 Dinamo 3.
Nov 6: Sportul 2 Universitatea 4; Pandurii 0 Otelul 1; Steaua 2 Concordia 1.
Nov 7: Tirgu-Mures 0 Rapid 2; Gaz Metan 1 Vaslui 1.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	13	9	3	1	28	7	30
Rapid	13	8	4	1	20	7	28
CFR	13	8	2	3	28	12	26
Universitatea	13	7	4	2	20	11	25
Steaua	13	6	4	3	18	11	22
Pandurii	13	6	4	3	18	12	22
Vaslui	13	6	3	4	21	11	21
Otelul	13	6	3	4	12	12	21
Astra	13	5	5	3	16	14	20
Gaz Metan	13	5	1	7	19	23	16
Ceahlaul	13	4	4	5	12	18	16
Petrolul	13	3	4	6	13	18	13
Vointa	13	3	4	6	10	18	13
Brasov	13	3	3	7	11	15	12
Sportul	13	1	6	6	13	25	9
Concordia	13	2	3	8	8	21	9
Tirgu-Mures	13	1	5	7	12	23	8
Mioveni	13	2	2	9	9	30	8

34-round season (17x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

RUSSIA

Regular season

Oct 15: CSKA 2 Terek 2; Krasnodar 2 Rostov 0; Krylia Sovetov 0 Volga 0; Zenit 0 Dynamo 0.
Oct 16: Amkar 3 Kuban 1; Spartak Nalchik 1 Anzhi 1; Rubin 3 Spartak Moscow 0; Lokomotiv 3 Tom 0.
Oct 22: Volga 0 Krasnodar 2; Terek 1 Amkar 0; Kuban 1 Krylia Sovetov 1.
Oct 23: Rostov 1 Zenit 3; Spartak Moscow 4 Tom 0; Anzhi 3 CSKA 5.
Oct 24: Spartak Nalchik 1 Lokomotiv 2; Dynamo 0 Rubin 2.
Oct 27: Zenit 3 Volga 0.
Oct 28: Rubin 1 Rostov 1; CSKA 4 Spartak Nalchik 0.
Oct 29: Anzhi 2 Amkar 1; Krasnodar 0 Kuban 2; Spartak Moscow 3 Lokomotiv 0.
Oct 30: Tom 0 Dynamo 2; Krylia Sovetov 2 Terek 1.
Nov 5: Rostov 2 Tom 1; Anzhi 3 Krylia Sovetov 1; Dynamo 1 Spartak Moscow 1; Terek 2 Krasnodar 0.
Nov 6: Spartak Nalchik 2 Amkar 1; Kuban 1 Zenit 1; Volga 1 Rubin 0; Lokomotiv 1 CSKA 1.

RUSSIA – REGULAR – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zenit	30	17	10	3	59	25	61
CSKA	30	16	11	3	58	29	59
Dynamo	30	16	7	7	51	30	55
Spartak M	30	15	8	7	48	33	53
Lokomotiv	30	15	8	7	49	30	53
Kuban	30	14	7	9	38	27	49
Rubin	30	13	10	7	40	27	49
Anzhi	30	13	9	8	38	32	48
Krasnodar	30	10	8	12	38	43	38
Rostov	30	8	8	14	31	45	32
Terek	30	8	7	15	29	45	31
Volga	30	8	4	18	24	40	28
Amkar	30	6	9	15	20	39	27
Krylia Sovetov	30	6	9	15	21	43	27
Spartak N	30	5	9	16	23	40	24
Tom	30	4	8	18	19	58	20

Top 8 form championship group, bottom 8 form relegation group (from which the bottom 2 will go down, 3rd & 4th bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs)

SCOTLAND

Regular season

Oct 15: Kilmarnock 3 Celtic 3; St Johnstone 2 Inverness 0; Hibernian 0 Motherwell 1; Dunfermline 0 Hearts 2; Aberdeen 3 Dundee United 1; Rangers 1 St Mirren 1.
Oct 22: Motherwell 0 Kilmarnock 0; Dundee United 0 St Johnstone 0; Inverness 1 Dunfermline 1; St Mirren 2 Hibernian 3.
Oct 23: Hearts 0 Rangers 2; Celtic 2 Aberdeen 1.
Oct 29: Aberdeen 1 Rangers 2; Celtic 0 Hibernian 0; Dunfermline 1 Dundee United 4; Hearts 0 Kilmarnock 1; Inverness 2 Motherwell 3; St Johnstone 0 St Mirren 1.
Nov 5: Hibernian 0 Dunfermline 1; Kilmarnock 3 Inverness 6; Rangers 3 Dundee United 1; St Mirren 0 Hearts 0.
Nov 6: Motherwell 1 Celtic 2.

SCOTLAND – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	14	12	2	0	30	6	38
Celtic	13	8	2	3	25	13	26
Motherwell	14	8	2	4	18	17	26
St Johnstone	13	5	4	4	15	11	19
Hearts	14	5	4	5	13	9	19
St Mirren	14	4	5	5	12	13	17
Kilmarnock	14	3	6	5	19	24	15
Dundee Utd	14	3	5	6	20	26	14
Hibernian	14	3	4	7	14	22	13
Dunfermline	13	3	4	6	14	27	13
Aberdeen	13	3	3	7	13	16	12
Inverness	14	3	3	8	19	28	12

33-round regular season (11x3); top 6 will form championship group, bottom 6 will form relegation group (from which the bottom team will go down)

SERBIA

Oct 15: Novi Pazar 0 Borac 0; Metalac 0 Red Star 5; OFK 1 Smederevo 0; Jagodina 1 Javor 0; Partizan 2 Spartak 0; Sloboda Sevojno 0 BSK 1.
Oct 16: Hajduk 0 Radnicki 0; Rad 1 Vojvodina 1.
Oct 22: Spartak 0 Rad 0; Javor 0 Partizan 2; Smederevo 1 Jagodina 2; BSK 1 OFK 0; Borac 1 Sloboda Sevojno 2; Radnicki 3 Metalac 2; Vojvodina 4 Hajduk 0; Red Star 3 Novi Pazar 1.
Oct 29: Novi Pazar 0 Radnicki 0; OFK 2 Borac 0; Jagodina 2 BSK 0; Partizan 3 Smederevo 1.
Oct 30: Hajduk 0 Metalac 0; Rad 0 Javor 1; Sloboda Sevojno 1 Red Star 1; Vojvodina 1 Spartak 1.
Nov 5: Javor 0 Vojvodina 0; Smederevo 0 Rad 0; BSK 0 Partizan 1; Borac 0 Jagodina 0; Red Star 3 OFK 1; Metalac 1 Novi Pazar 1.
Nov 6: Spartak 1 Hajduk 1; Radnicki 2 Sloboda Sevojno 1.

SERBIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	11	10	0	1	23	4	30
Red Star	11	8	2	1	22	6	26
Radnicki	11	5	6	0	17	8	21
S Sevojno	11	5	4	2	14	11	19
Vojvodina	11	4	6	1	19	8	18
Jagodina	11	5	3	3	13	8	18
Spartak	11	3	6	2	10	11	15
Hajduk	11	4	3	4	10	14	15
OFK	11	4	1	6	12	16	13
Rad	11	3	3	5	13	9	12
BSK	11	3	3	5	7	13	12
Javor	11	3	2	6	6	13	11
Smederevo	11	3	1	7	7	14	10
Borac	11	1	4	6	4	12	7
Novi Pazar	11	1	4	6	5	20	7
Metalac	11	0	4	7	5	20	4

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

SPAIN

The new Maradona

Spanish fourth-tier side Alzira have signed Diego Maradona – the nephew and namesake of the former Argentina star.

The 22-year-old forward began his career in the youth team at Argentinos Juniors, just like his uncle, and then played for Canadian side North York Astros and Sindicato de Camioneros in Argentina before joining the Valencia-based outfit.

ARGENTINA

Attacked by own fans

San Lorenzo's home game against All Boys was postponed after defender Jonathan Bottinelli was assaulted by fans at the club's training ground. The former Sampdoria defender says he will never play for San Lorenzo again following the assault, which happened the day after a 1-0 defeat against Arsenal de Sarandi.

BRAZIL

Tight at the top

Five points separate the top six in Brazil's Serie A, with just five games left to play, after leaders Corinthians lost 2-1 away to bottom club America.

Second-placed Vasco and Botafogo in third also lost, against Santos and Figueirense respectively, while Flamengo put themselves back in contention with a 5-1 win over Cruzeiro as Thiago Neves scored a hat-trick.

The previous week, Neymar scored all four goals for Santos in their 4-1

Heading for a tight finish... Vasco's Renato Silva (left) and Felipe Anderson of Santos

CLUB FOOTBALL

SPAIN

Saturday, October 15

Barcelona 3 (Messi 10, 67, Xavi 26)
Racing Santander 0 Att: 82,225

Getafe 0
Villarreal 0 Att: 8,000

Granada 0
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 22,000

Mallorca 1 (Hemed pen 90+3)
Valencia 1 (Rami 37) Att: 14,000

Real Madrid 4 (Higuain 46, 70, 73, Kaka 59)
Betis 1 (Jorge Molina 69) Att: 83,000

Sunday, October 16

Levante 3 (Barkero 14, Juanlu 30, Kone 41)
Malaga 0 Att: 13,108

Rayo Vallecano 0
Espanyol 1 (Romaric 56) Att: 9,500

Sevilla 2 (Manu 15, Caceres 56)
Sporting Gijon 1 (Barral 64) Att: 35,000

Zaragoza 2 (Helder Postiga 10, 49)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 21,000

Monday, October 17

Athletic Bilbao 3 (Muniain 30, Gabilondo 38, Javi Martinez 45+1)
Osasuna 1 (Nekounam pen 90) Att: 33,000

Saturday, October 22

Barcelona 0
Sevilla 0 Att: 82,743

Malaga 0
Real Madrid 4 (Higuain 11, Cristiano Ronaldo 22, 28, 38) Att: 28,500

Racing Santander 0
Espanyol 1 (Sergio Garcia 58) Att: 10,000

Sporting Gijon 2 (Barral 6, Andre Castro 42)
Granada 0 Att: 19,000

Sunday, October 23

Atletico Madrid 1 (Falcao pen 43)
Mallorca 1 (Hemed pen 2) Att: 45,000

Betis 0
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Bangoura 80, Koke pen 88) Att: 38,500

Osasuna 3 (Raul Garcia 18, Nino 26, Nekounam 30)
Zaragoza 0 Att: 15,869

Real Sociedad 0
Getafe 0 Att: 24,000

Valencia 1 (Soldado 89)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Muniain 71) Att: 48,000

Villarreal 0
Levante 3 (Juanlu 15, 42, Kone 57) Att: 16,000

Tuesday, October 25

Granada 0
Barcelona 1 (Xavi 32) Att: 22,000

Sevilla 2 (Manu 37, 90+2)
Racing Santander 2 (Nahuelpan 61, Jairo 68) Att: 35,000

Wednesday, October 26

Getafe 2 (Guiza 61, 75)
Osasuna 2 (Balde 6, 65) Att: 8,000

Levante 3 (Nano 55, Valdo 60, Ruben 90+4)
Real Sociedad 2 (Estrada 4, Inigo Martinez 86) Att: 22,000

Mallorca 1 (Castro 15)
Sporting Gijon 2 (Bilic 49, Joao Victor og 64) Att: 9,400

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Botelho 7, Tamudo 69)
Malaga 0 Att: 10,000

Real Madrid 3 (Benzema 4, Kaka 11, Di Maria 29)
Villarreal 0 Att: 55,000

Zaragoza 0
Valencia 1 (Jordi Alba 82) Att: 18,000

Thursday, October 27

Athletic Bilbao 3 (Llorente 66, 71, Toquero 75)
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 28,000

Espanyol 1 (Pandiani 74)
Betis 0 Att: 21,810

Saturday, October 29

Barcelona 5 (Messi pen 12, 20, 30, Cuenca 50, Daniel Alves 90)
Mallorca 0 Att: 80,635

Real Sociedad 0
Real Madrid 1 (Higuain 9) Att: 27,000

Valencia 3 (Feghouli 12, 25, Aduriz 76)
Getafe 1 (Diego Castro 22) Att: 42,000

Villarreal 2 (Bruno 19, Borja Valero 67)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 10,000

Sunday, October 30

Atletico Madrid 3 (Adrian 19, 75, Dominguez 31)
Zaragoza 1 (Helder Postiga 79) Att: 45,000

Malaga 2 (Rondon 4, Apono pen 73)
Espanyol 1 (Alvaro 44) Att: 30,000

Osasuna 2 (Cejudo 40, Nino 44)
Levante 0 Att: 15,399

Racing Santander 1 (Stuani pen 61)
Betis 0 Att: 11,000

Sporting Gijon 1 (Bilic 71)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Susaeta 61) Att: 23,000

Monday, October 31

Sevilla 1 (Manu 1)
Granada 2 (Geijo 78, Mikel Rico 89) Att: 38,000

Saturday, November 5

Betis 0
Malaga 0 Att: 38,000

Levante 0
Valencia 2 (Javi Venta og 30, Tino Costa 50) Att: 19,000

Mallorca 0
Sevilla 0 Att: 11,900

Sunday, November 6

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Ander 20, Pique og 80)
Barcelona 2 (Fabregas 24, Messi 90+1) Att: 35,000

Espanyol 0
Villarreal 0 Att: 23,417

Granada 0
Racing Santander 0 Att: 15,000

Getafe 3 (Barrada 39, Michel 49, Diego Castro pen 83)
Atletico Madrid 2 (Falcao pen 30, Dominguez 79) Att: 8,000

Rayo Vallecano 4 (Piti pen 11, Michu 48, 62, Trashorras 72)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 10,081

Real Madrid 7 (Cristiano Ronaldo 23, pen 53, 58, Pepe 34, Higuain 40, Benzema 63, 81)
Osasuna 1 (Balde 29) Att: 75,000

Zaragoza 2 (Botia og 27, Helder Postiga 90+3)
Sporting Gijon 2 (Barral 29, 44) Att: 18,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	11	9	1	1	39	7	28
Barcelona	11	7	4	0	34	6	25
Valencia	11	7	3	1	17	9	24
Levante	11	7	2	2	17	9	23
Sevilla	11	4	6	1	11	8	18
Malaga	11	5	2	4	12	14	17
Espanyol	11	5	1	5	9	13	16
Vallecano	11	4	3	4	14	13	15
Athletic	11	3	5	3	17	14	14
Osasuna	11	3	5	3	14	24	14
Atletico	11	3	4	4	14	14	13
Betis	11	4	1	6	10	15	13
Villarreal	11	2	5	4	9	17	11
Getafe	11	2	4	5	12	17	10
Mallorca	11	2	4	5	8	16	10
Zaragoza	11	2	4	5	12	22	10
Gijon	11	2	3	6	10	16	9
Santander	11	1	6	4	7	15	9
Granada	11	2	3	6	4	12	9
Sociedad	11	2	2	7	9	18	8

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading scorers

14 Lionel Messi (Barcelona)
13 Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
11 Gonzalo Higuain (Real Madrid)
7 Radamel Falcao (Atletico Madrid)

SWEDEN

Oct 13: Malmo 1 Hacken 0.
Oct 15: Malmo 1 Djurgarden 0; Kalmar 4 Orebro 1.
Oct 16: Trelleborg 1 Mjallby 2; Norrkoping 2 Elfsborg 1; AIK 2 Hacken 1.
Oct 17: Halmstad 1 Djurgarden 3; GAIS 1 Gothenburg 0; Malmo 1 Syrianska 0; Gefle 2 Helsingborg 0.
Oct 23: Syrianska 0 GAIS 2; Gothenburg 3 Norrkoping 0; Elfsborg 3 Trelleborg 0; Djurgarden 1 Gefle 1; Orebro 1 Malmo 2; Hacken 1 Kalmar 2; Helsingborg 1 AIK 1; Mjallby 2 Halmstad 0.

SWEDEN – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Helsingborg (C)	30	18	9	3	55	27	63
AIK	30	18	4	8	46	27	58
Elfsborg	30	18	3	9	52	32	57
Malmo	30	15	9	6	37	30	54
GAIS	30	16	3	11	47	34	51
Hacken	30	14	7	9	52	32	49
Gothenburg	30	13	6	11	42	34	45
Kalmar	30	13	5	12	39	34	44
Gefle	30	10	11	9	31	39	41
Mjallby	30	12	4	14	33	39	40
Djurgarden	30	10	6	14	36	40	36
Orebro	30	11	3	16	36	45	36
Norrkoping	30	9	7	14	32	49	34
Syrianska*	30	8	4	18	27	44	28
Trelleborg (R)	30	7	4	19	39	64	25
Halmstad (R)	30	3	5	22	24	58	14

**Syrianska won their rel/prom play-off, against Angelholm, 4-3 on agg so remain in the top flight*

SWITZERLAND

Oct 22: Lausanne 1 Thun 0; Lucerne 1 Xamax 2.
Oct 23: Servette 0 Sion 2; Young Boys 0 Grasshopper 1; Zurich 0 Basle 1.
Oct 26: Grasshopper 1 Servette 4; Sion 0 Basle 1; Thun 0 Zurich 2.
Oct 27: Lucerne 2 Lausanne 0; Xamax 0 Young Boys 0.
Oct 29: Sion 2 Thun 0; Basle 4 Grasshopper 1.
Oct 30: Servette 2 Xamax 1; Young Boys 4 Lausanne 1; Zurich 1 Lucerne 1.
Nov 5: Lausanne 2 Basle 3; Thun 3 Lucerne 1.
Nov 6: Grasshopper 2 Sion 1; Xamax 3 Zurich 1; Servette 1 Young Boys 0.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basle	15	9	4	2	35	16	31
Lucerne	15	8	4	3	22	11	28
Sion	15	8	2	5	22	15	26
Young Boys	15	7	4	4	24	14	25
Xamax	15	6	4	5	18	18	22
Servette	15	6	3	6	23	24	21
Thun	15	5	4	6	17	19	19
Zurich	14	4	2	8	20	21	14
Grasshopper	14	4	1	9	13	32	13
Lausanne	15	2	2	11	12	36	8

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

TURKEY

Regular season

Oct 14: Trabzonspor 3 Ankaragucu 2.
Oct 15: Orduspor 2 Eskisehirspor 1; Sivasspor 0 Gaziantepspor 0; Besiktas 0 Kayserispor 2.
Oct 16: Istanbul BB 3 Samsunspor 0; Genclerbirligi 3 Antalyaspor 0; Manisaspor 2 Karabukspor 1; Galatasaray 2 Bursaspor 1.
Oct 17: Mersin 1 Fenerbahce 2.
Oct 21: Antalyaspor 0 Galatasaray 0.
Oct 22: Eskisehirspor 0 Manisaspor 2; Karabukspor 2 Istanbul BB 0; Bursaspor 1 Trabzonspor 1.
Oct 23: Kayserispor 6 Sivasspor 2; Ankaragucu 0 Orduspor 2; Gaziantepspor 3 Genclerbirligi 0; Fenerbahce 0 Samsunspor 0.
Oct 24: Mersin 0 Besiktas 1.
Oct 26: Samsunspor 0 Karabukspor 0; Istanbul BB 2 Eskisehirspor 2; Orduspor 1 Bursaspor 1; Galatasaray 2 Gaziantepspor 4; Trabzonspor 2 Antalyaspor 2.
Oct 27: Genclerbirligi 1 Kayserispor 0; Sivasspor 1 Mersin 0; Besiktas 2 Fenerbahce 2; Manisaspor 2 Ankaragucu 0.

league win against Atletico Paranaense, and also had two disallowed.

Uruguayan striker Santiago Garcia will be allowed to continue playing for Atletico Paranaense despite failing a drugs test. The 21-year-old tested positive for cocaine after his former club, Nacional, won the Uruguayan Championship Final in June, shortly before his £1.7million move to Brazil. However, any potential ban will most likely only apply to matches in his homeland due to irregularities in the testing procedures which made them invalid by FIFA and WADA standards.

CHILE

La U still unbeaten

Five players were sent off as nine-man Universidad de Chile fought back to preserve their unbeaten league record and draw 2-2 with Colo Colo thanks to an equaliser from Osmar Molinas in the ninth minute of time added on.

La U led through Charles Aranguiz, but the hosts hit back with two goals from Esteban Paredes after Aranguiz and Osvaldo Gonzalez received their marching orders. Paredes, Juan Castillo and Sebastian Toro then all saw red for Colo Colo in a dramatic final 20 minutes.

COLOMBIA

Long wait over

Millonarios won their first trophy for 23 years, beating Boyaca Chico 2-0 on aggregate in the Cup Final, to secure their place in next year's Sudamericana Cup.

Joy...Millonarios' Rafael Robayo

Oct 29: Antalyaspor 1 Orduspor 1; Eskisehirspor 1 Samsunspor 0; Gaziantepspor 0 Trabzonspor 1.
Oct 30: Bursaspor 0 Manisaspor 0; Kayserispor 0 Galatasaray 2; Besiktas 3 Sivasspor 1; Ankaragucu 1 Istanbul BB 2.
Oct 31: Mersin 2 Genclerbirligi 1; Fenerbahce 1 Karabukspor 0.
Nov 4: Samsunspor 2 Ankaragucu 2; Sivasspor 2 Fenerbahce 0.
Nov 5: Orduspor 0 Gaziantepspor 0; Manisaspor 1 Antalyaspor 0; Karabukspor 1 Eskisehirspor 2; Galatasaray 0 Mersin 0.
Nov 6: Istanbul BB 0 Bursaspor 0; Trabzonspor 2 Kayserispor 1; Genclerbirligi 4 Besiktas 2.

TURKEY – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fenerbahce	10	6	3	1	15	9	21
Trabzonspor	10	5	4	1	16	10	19
Galatasaray	10	5	3	2	15	9	18
Istanbul BB	10	5	3	2	15	10	18
Manisaspor	10	5	3	2	11	7	18
Orduspor	10	4	5	1	10	6	17
Besiktas	10	5	2	3	15	13	17
Eskisehirspor	10	4	2	4	12	12	14
Mersin	10	4	2	4	12	12	14
Genclerbirligi	10	4	2	4	14	16	14
Sivasspor	10	4	2	4	14	18	14
Bursaspor	10	3	4	3	14	10	13
Kayserispor	10	3	1	6	13	15	10
Antalyaspor	10	2	4	4	8	12	10
Gaziantepspor	10	2	3	5	9	11	9
Karabukspor	10	2	2	6	10	14	8
Samsunspor	10	1	5	4	8	14	8
Ankaragucu	10	0	2	8	9	22	2

34-round regular season (17x2); top 4 will form championship group, 5th to 8th will form Europa League place group, bottom 3 will be relegated

UKRAINE

Oct 14: Oleksandria 1 Illichivets 2; Zorya 0 Vorskla 0.
Oct 15: Tavriya 1 Shakhtar 3; Metalist 1 Chornomorets 0.
Oct 16: Metalurh 1 Kryvbas 0; Karpaty 0 Arsenal 3; Obolon 1 Dnipro 4; Dynamo 2 Volyn 1.
Oct 21: Volyn 1 Arsenal 0; Chornomorets 2 Oleksandria 1.
Oct 22: Illichivets 2 Obolon 1; Kryvbas 1 Karpaty 1; Dnipro 1 Metalurh 0.
Oct 23: Shakhtar 1 Metalist 2; Vorskla 3 Tavriya 2; Dynamo 6 Zorya 1.
Oct 29: Oleksandria 2 Shakhtar 3; Metalist 2 Vorskla 2.
Oct 30: Zorya 0 Volyn 2; Tavriya 0 Dynamo 0; Karpaty 0 Dnipro 2; Arsenal 2 Kryvbas 0.
Oct 31: Obolon 0 Chornomorets 1; Metalurh 0 Illichivets 0.
Nov 4: Zorya 0 Tavriya 1.
Nov 5: Metalurh 3 Chornomorets 0; Karpaty 3 Illichivets 0; Volyn 0 Kryvbas 0; Dnipro 1 Arsenal 0.
Nov 6: Oleksandria 1 Vorskla 1; Obolon 0 Shakhtar 2; Metalist 1 Dynamo 2.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	16	12	4	0	34	8	40
Shakhtar	16	12	3	1	38	12	39
Metalist	16	10	5	1	25	13	35
Dnipro	16	8	3	5	26	19	27
Arsenal	16	7	5	4	21	11	26
Vorskla	16	6	5	5	21	19	23
Metalurh	16	7	2	7	16	16	23
Kryvbas	16	6	4	6	12	14	22
Tavriya	16	5	6	5	21	20	21
Volyn	16	5	4	7	16	24	19
Chornomorets	16	4	5	7	13	20	17
Illichivets	16	4	4	8	16	26	16
Karpaty	16	3	5	8	14	21	14
Zorya	16	3	3	10	13	29	12
Oleksandria	16	2	5	9	14	28	11
Obolon	16	0	5	11	6	26	5

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

SOUTH AMERICA

SUDAMERICANA CUP

3rd round

1st legs - Sep 28-Oct 19; 2nd legs - Oct 13-26
Aurora (Bol) v Vasco da Gama (Bra)
3-1, 3-8 (agg 6-9)
Botafogo (Bra) v Independiente Santa Fe (Col)
1-1, 1-4 (agg 2-5)
Flamengo (Bra) v Universidad de Chile (Chl)
0-4, 0-1 (agg 0-5)
Godoy Cruz (Arg) v Universitario (Per)
1-1, 1-1 (agg 2-2, Universitario 3-2 on pens)
LDU Quito (Ecu) v Independiente (Arg)
2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1)
Olimpia (Par) v Arsenal (Arg)
0-0, 2-3 (agg 2-3)
Sao Paulo (Bra) v Libertad (Par)
1-0, 0-2 (agg 1-2)
Universidad Catolica (Chl) v Velez Sarsfield (Arg)
0-2, 1-1 (agg 1-3)

ARGENTINA

Apertura

Oct 14: Olimpo 1 Tigre 1; San Lorenzo 1 Banfield 0; Newell's 0 Arsenal 0.
Oct 15: Independiente 2 Godoy Cruz 1; San Martin 0 Racing 0; Union 1 All Boys 1.
Oct 16: Estudiantes 3 Rafaela 0; Argentinos 0 Colon 0; Boca 0 Belgrano 0; Lanus 1 Velez 2.
Oct 24: Olimpo 0 Union 1; Banfield 3 Independiente 0; All Boys 1 Newell's 1.
Oct 25: Arsenal 1 San Lorenzo 0; Velez 1 Estudiantes 0; Colon 0 Boca 2; Rafaela 3 Argentinos 1.
Oct 26: Tigre 0 Belgrano 1; Godoy Cruz 2 San Martin 2; Racing 1 Lanus 1.
Oct 29: Argentinos 3 Velez 1; Independiente 0 Arsenal 0; Newell's 2 Olimpo 2.
Oct 30: Lanus 2 Godoy Cruz 1; Boca 3 Rafaela 1; Belgrano 0 Colon 1.
Oct 31: Union 1 Tigre 1; Estudiantes 0 Racing 0; San Martin 2 Banfield 1.
Nov 4: All Boys 2 Independiente 2; Rafaela 0 Belgrano 0; Olimpo 1 San Lorenzo 1.
Nov 5: Tigre 2 Colon 1; Godoy Cruz 3 Estudiantes 1; Racing 1 Argentinos 0.
Nov 6: Banfield 1 Lanus 2; Union 2 Newell's 1; Velez 0 Boca 0.
Nov 7: Arsenal 2 San Martin 0.

ARGENTINA – APERTURA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca	14	9	5	0	17	3	32
Racing	14	5	9	0	11	4	24
Lanus	14	6	5	3	17	11	23
Rafaela	14	7	2	5	20	19	23
Tigre	14	5	6	3	16	13	21
Belgrano	14	5	6	3	13	10	21
Velez	14	6	3	5	14	12	21
Colon	14	5	6	3	12	11	21
Union	14	5	6	3	13	13	21
Godoy Cruz	14	5	5	4	24	19	20
Arsenal	14	5	5	4	16	13	20
Independiente	14	4	4	6	11	15	16
San Lorenzo	13	4	3	6	12	15	15
San Martin	14	3	6	5	11	14	15
Olimpo	14	2	8	4	15	18	14
All Boys	13	2	7	4	13	19	13
Newell's	14	1	9	4	10	14	12
Argentinos	14	2	6	6	12	20	12
Estudiantes	14	2	4	8	15	22	10
Banfield	14	3	1	10	9	16	10

19-round tournament (19x1); no relegation after apertura

BRAZIL

Oct 8: America 0 At Mineiro 0; Coritiba 2 Gremio 0; Botafogo 2 Bahia 2.
Oct 9: Internacional 3 Vasco 0; Flamengo 3 Fluminense 2; Santos 1 Palmeiras 0; Avai 3 Paranaense 0; Corinthians 3 Goianiense 0; Ceara 1 Figueirense 1.
Oct 12: America 4 Ceara 1; Avai 2 Goianiense 2; Gremio 1 Figueirense 3; Sao Paulo 0 Internacional 0; Bahia 0 Cruzeiro 0; Flamengo 1 Palmeiras 1; Corinthians 0 Botafogo 2.
Oct 13: Paranaense 2 Vasco 2; At Mineiro 2 Santos 1; Fluminense 3 Coritiba 1.
Oct 15: Ceara 0 Flamengo 1; Figueirense 2 America 1.
Oct 16: Cruzeiro 0 Corinthians 1; Internacional 4 Avai 2; Botafogo 2 Paranaense 0; Santos 0 Gremio 1; Palmeiras 1 Fluminense 2; Goianiense 3 Sao Paulo 0; Coritiba 0 Bahia 0; Vasco 2 At Mineiro 0.
Oct 19: Santos 2 Botafogo 0.
Oct 22: Palmeiras 1 Figueirense 2; Fluminense 0 At Mineiro 2; Avai 3 Botafogo 2; America 2 Gremio 2.
Oct 23: Sao Paulo 0 Coritiba 0; Paranaense 1 Ceara 0; Bahia 0 Vasco 2; Internacional 1 Corinthians 1; Flamengo 1 Santos 1; Cruzeiro 3 Goianiense 2.
Oct 29: Santos 4 Paranaense 1; Botafogo 1 Cruzeiro 0; Ceara 1 Fluminense 2.
Oct 30: Corinthians 2 Avai 1; Vasco 0 Sao Paulo 0; Gremio 4 Flamengo 2; Figueirense 2 Bahia 1; At Mineiro 2 Palmeiras 1; Coritiba 3 America 1; Goianiense 0 Internacional 1.
Nov 5: Botafogo 0 Figueirense 1; At Mineiro 2 Gremio 0; Bahia 4 Sao Paulo 3.
Nov 6: Santos 2 Vasco 0; Flamengo 5 Cruzeiro 1; Avai 1 Ceara 2; America 2 Corinthians 1; Palmeiras 0 Coritiba 2; Internacional 1 Fluminense 2; Paranaense 2 Goianiense 1.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	33	17	7	9	47	34	58
Vasco	33	16	10	7	49	37	58
Fluminense	33	18	2	13	48	42	56
Botafogo	33	16	7	10	49	38	55
Flamengo	33	14	13	6	57	44	55
Figueirense	33	14	11	8	43	38	53
Internacional	33	13	12	8	53	40	51
Sao Paulo	33	13	11	9	48	42	50
Santos	33	14	6	13	49	46	48
Coritiba	33	13	9	11	52	38	48
Gremio	33	13	7	13	40	44	46
Goianiense	33	11	9	13	42	40	42
Palmeiras	33	9	14	10	37	36	41
At Mineiro	33	11	6	16	41	49	39
Bahia	33	9	12	12	39	44	39
Ceara	33	9	8	16	39	55	35
Cruzeiro	33	9	7	17	38	47	34
Paranaense	33	8	10	15	33	50	34
Avai	33	7	8	18	44	69	29
America	33	5	13	15	43	58	28

38-round season (19x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

COLOMBIA

COLOMBIA – CLAUSURA – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Junior	14	6	6	2	22	16	24
Itagui	14	6	5	3	21	15	23
Chico	14	5	7	2	14	12	22
Millonarios	14	6	3	5	17	15	21
Tolima	14	6	3	5	16	15	21
Quindio	14	6	3	5	20	20	21
Envigado	14	5	4	5	15	13	19
America	13	5	4	4	16	15	19
Dep Cali	14	5	4	5	13	16	19
Nacional	14	4	6	4	18	16	18
Ind Santa Fe	14	5	3	6	17	18	18
Pereira	14	3	8	3	14	13	17
Once Caldas	13	4	5	4	19	19	17
Cartagena	14	4	4	6	17	18	16
Ind Medellin	14	4	4	6	15	17	16
Huila	14	4	3	7	14	17	15
La Equidad	14	3	5	6	8	16	14
Cucuta	14	2	7	5	14	19	13

Standings on Nov 8
18-round regular season (17x1 + 1 round of "clasicos"); top 8 will enter championship play-offs, the team with fewest average points over the 3 most recent seasons will be relegated, team with 2nd fewest will enter rel/prom play-off

PARAGUAY

PARAGUAY – CLAUSURA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Libertad	15	8	5	2	27	14	29
Nacional	15	9	2	4	21	13	29
Olimpia	15	8	3	4	27	19	27
Cerro Porteno	15	7	5	3	26	18	26
Rubio Nu	15	5	6	4	19	18	21
Sol America	15	5	5	5	19	18	20
Tacuary	15	4	7	4	20	18	19
Guarani	15	5	4	6	21	23	19
Independiente	14	3	7	4	14	17	16
Caballero	15	4	2	9	18	32	14
Luqueno	14	3	3	8	12	22	12
3 de Febrero	15	2	3	10	16	28	9

Standings on Nov 8
22-round tournament (11x2); the 2 teams with the fewest average points over the 3 most recent seasons will be relegated

MEXICO

Pumas miss out

Defending champions Pumas missed out on a play-off slot after being held 1-1 by Tijuana.

They did, however, make it through to the quarter-finals of the CONCACAF Champions League, where they will be joined by Morelia, Santos Laguna and holders Monterrey.

USA

Joint-top scorers

San Jose Earthquakes striker Chris Wondolowski failed in his bid to become the first player to lead the MLS scoring charts outright for consecutive seasons.

The 28-year-old finished tied for the MLS Golden boot award, with DC United's Dwayne De Rosario, with 16 goals.

Sweet 16...Wondolowski

ANGOLA

Recreativo triumph

Zeca Amaral, who lost his job as national coach earlier in the year, led Recreativo Libolo to their first-ever Girabola title with a 3-3 draw at home to relegated Cabinda on the final day of the season. Libolo finished a point clear of Kabuscorp, while last year's champions Petro Atletico were third.

EGYPT

Mido makes return

Ten months after rejoining Zamalek, Mido – who failed to get international clearance last season after arriving from Ajax of Holland – scored after appearing as a second-half substitute in his side's opening game of the new league season, in a 6-1 win against Ghazl El-Mehalla.

URUGUAY

URUGUAY – APERTURA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	11	7	3	1	19	7	24
Cerro	11	7	2	2	15	6	23
Danubio	11	6	4	1	14	6	22
Nacional	11	5	5	1	22	9	20
River Plate	11	6	2	3	17	15	20
Cerro Largo	11	5	3	3	11	12	18
Defensor	10	4	2	4	14	11	14
Liverpool	11	4	1	6	13	12	13
Cerrito	11	3	4	4	7	10	13
Fenix	11	3	4	4	11	16	13
Tanque Sisley	11	4	1	6	10	17	13
Racing	11	2	6	3	14	16	12
Wanderers	10	3	1	6	16	17	10
Rampla	11	3	1	7	10	16	10
Bella Vista	11	3	0	8	7	18	9
Rentistas	11	2	1	8	4	16	7

Standings on Nov 8

15-round tournament (15x1); no relegation after apertura

CONCACAF

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Oct 18: Monarcas Morelia (Mex) 2 Alajuelense (CR) 1.
Oct 20: Motagua (Hnd) 0 Los Angeles Galaxy (USA) 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Los Angeles	6	4	0	2	8	4	12
Morelia	6	4	0	2	11	5	12
Alajuelense	6	4	0	2	8	6	12
Motagua	6	0	0	6	2	14	0

Group B

Oct 19: Santos Laguna (Mex) 2 Colorado Rapids (USA) 0.
Oct 20: Isidro Metapan (ESv) 3 Real Espana (Hnd) 2.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	6	4	1	1	16	6	13
Metapan	6	3	0	3	10	15	9
Colorado	6	2	1	3	9	12	7
Real Espana	6	1	2	3	9	11	5

Group C

Oct 18: Dallas (USA) 0 Toronto (Can) 3.
Oct 19: Pumas UNAM (Mex) 1 Tauro (Pan) 0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pumas	6	3	2	1	8	2	11
Toronto	6	3	1	2	7	7	10
Dallas	6	2	1	3	6	11	7
Tauro	6	1	2	3	7	8	5

Group D

Oct 18: Seattle Sounders (USA) 1 Monterrey (Mex) 2.
Oct 19: Herediano (CR) 4 Comunicaciones (Gtm) 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monterrey	6	4	0	2	11	4	12
Seattle	6	3	1	2	10	7	10
Comunic'nes	6	2	1	3	8	13	7
Herediano	6	2	0	4	6	11	6

Top 2 in each group qualified for quarter-finals

MEXICO

Apertura

Regular season

Oct 7: Tecos 2 Monterrey 3.
Oct 8: Cruz Azul 2 Puebla 0; Queretaro 1 Santos 3; Tigres 4 Pumas 1; Pachuca 1 Jaguares 0; Atlas 2 Tijuana 2; Atlante 1 San Luis 1.
Oct 9: Toluca 0 Guadalajara 0; America 1 Morelia 1.
Oct 14: Morelia 2 Tigres 0.
Oct 15: Monterrey 0 America 3; Jaguares 1 Atlante 1; Tijuana 3 Pachuca 2; Santos 3 Toluca 2; Guadalajara 5 Tecos 2; San Luis 1 Cruz Azul 1.
Oct 16: Puebla 1 Queretaro 0; Pumas 1 Atlas 4.
Oct 22: Queretaro 1 Cruz Azul 0; Jaguares 3 San Luis 1; Tecos 5 Santos 2; Tigres 0 Monterrey 0; Pachuca 0 Pumas 0; Atlas 1 Morelia 1; Atlante 1 Tijuana 1.
Oct 23: Toluca 4 Puebla 3; America 1 Guadalajara 3.
Oct 25: Morelia 2 Pachuca 2.
Oct 26: Cruz Azul 0 Toluca 0; Monterrey 2 Atlas 0; Guadalajara 1 Tigres 0; Puebla 2 Tecos 1; San Luis 2 Queretaro 1; Santos 1 America 1; Pumas 1 Atlante 0; Tijuana 2 Jaguares 0.
Oct 29: Atlante 4 Morelia 4; Pachuca 4 Monterrey 0; Tigres 2 Santos 1; Atlas 1 Guadalajara 1; Jaguares 4 Pumas 0.
Oct 30: Tecos 0 Cruz Azul 2; Toluca 0 Queretaro 1; Tijuana 0 San Luis 0; America 2 Puebla 3.
Nov 1: Santos 0 Morelia 2.
Nov 4: Morelia 1 Jaguares 0.
Nov 5: Monterrey 3 Atlante 2; Cruz Azul 3 America 1; Queretaro 3 Tecos 0; Guadalajara 2 Pachuca 2; Santos 3 Atlas 0; San Luis 5 Toluca 1.
Nov 6: Pumas 1 Tijuana 1; Puebla 0 Tigres 1.

MEXICO – APERTURA: REGULAR – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guadalajara	17	8	6	3	24	18	30
Cruz Azul	17	8	5	4	21	14	29
Tigres	17	7	7	3	22	13	28
Santos	17	8	3	6	29	25	27
Jaguares	17	7	5	5	28	23	26
Pachuca	17	7	5	5	28	25	26
Morelia	17	7	5	5	25	22	26
Queretaro	17	8	2	7	24	21	26
Pumas	17	7	4	6	19	25	25
San Luis	17	6	6	5	23	20	24
Monterrey	17	7	3	7	27	26	24
Puebla	17	6	4	7	26	29	22
Toluca	17	4	8	5	19	27	20
Atlante	17	5	4	8	24	28	19
Tijuana	17	3	9	5	21	23	18
Tecos	17	6	0	11	24	30	18
America	17	3	6	8	26	31	15
Atlas	17	2	6	9	20	30	12

Top 8 enter championship play-offs; no relegation after apertura

UNITED STATES

Regular season

Oct 8: New England 1 San Jose 2; Seattle 0 Philadelphia 2.
Oct 12: Chicago 1 Dallas 2; Vancouver 2 DC United 1.
Oct 14: Colorado 0 Salt Lake 0; Portland 0 Houston 2.
Oct 15: Philadelphia 1 Toronto 1; Kansas City 2 New York 0; DC United 1 Chicago 2; New England 0 Columbus 3; Dallas 2 Vancouver 0; Seattle 2 San Jose 1.
Oct 16: Los Angeles 1 Chivas 0.
Oct 19: DC United 1 Portland 1.
Oct 20: New York 1 Philadelphia 0.
Oct 22: Toronto 2 New England 2; Vancouver 1 Colorado 2; DC United 0 Kansas City 1; Chicago 3 Columbus 2; Salt Lake 1 Portland 1; Chivas 1 Seattle 3; San Jose 4 Dallas 2.
Oct 23: Houston 3 Los Angeles 1.

USA – REGULAR – EASTERN CONF'NCE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kansas City	34	13	12	9	50	40	51
Houston	34	12	13	9	45	41	49
Philadelphia	34	11	15	8	44	36	48
Columbus	34	13	8	13	43	44	47
New York	34	10	16	8	50	44	46
Chicago	34	9	16	9	46	45	43
DC United	34	9	12	13	49	52	39
Toronto	34	6	15	13	36	59	33
New England	34	5	13	16	38	58	28

USA – REGULAR – WESTERN CONF'NCE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Los Angeles	34	19	10	5	48	28	67
Seattle	34	18	9	7	56	37	63
Salt Lake	34	15	8	11	44	36	53
Dallas	34	15	7	12	42	39	52
Colorado	34	12	13	9	44	41	49
Portland	34	11	9	14	40	48	42
San Jose	34	8	14	12	40	45	38
Chivas	34	8	12	14	41	43	36
Vancouver	34	6	10	18	35	55	28

Top 3 in each conference entered championship play-offs automatically, the other 4 teams with most points – regardless of conference – entered qualifying play-offs; no relegation from this league

Qualifying play-offs

Oct 26: Dallas 0 New York 2.
Oct 27: Colorado 1 Columbus 0.
Winners entered championship play-offs

Championship play-offs

Quarter-finals

1st legs - Oct 29/30; 2nd legs - Nov 2/3
Colorado v Kansas City 0-2, 0-2 (agg 0-4)
New York v Los Angeles 0-1, 1-2 (agg 1-3)
Philadelphia v Houston 1-2, 0-1 (agg 1-3)
Salt Lake v Seattle 3-0, 0-2 (agg 3-2)

Semi-finals

Single leg only
Nov 6: Los Angeles 3 Salt Lake 1; Kansas City 0 Houston 2.

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semi-finals

1st legs - Oct 1/2; 2nd legs - Oct 15/16
Al Hilal (Sud) v Esperance (Tun)
0-1, 0-2 (agg 0-3)
Wydad Casablanca (Mor) v Enyimba (Nga)
1-0, 0-0 (agg 1-0)

CONFEDERATION CUP

Group A

Sep 16: ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 1 InterClube (Ang) 0; Kaduna United (Nga) 0 Club Africain (Tun) 1.

CONFEDERATION CUP – GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Africain	6	3	2	1	6	3	11
InterClube	6	3	1	2	8	6	10
ASEC Abidjan	6	2	1	3	5	6	7
Kaduna Utd	6	1	2	3	5	9	5

Group B

Sep 17: Maghreb Fes (Mor) 3 Motema Pembe (DRC) 0; Sunshine Stars (Nga) 1 JS Kabylie (Alg) 0.

CONFEDERATION CUP – GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maghreb Fes	6	4	2	0	8	2	14
Sunshine Stars	6	3	2	1	6	3	11
Motema Pembe	6	2	2	2	5	6	8
JS Kabylie	6	0	0	6	1	9	0

Top 2 in both groups qualified for semi-finals

Semi-finals

1st legs - Oct 15/16; 2nd legs - Oct 29/30
InterClube v Maghreb Fes
2-1, 0-1 (agg 2-2, Maghreb Fes on away goals)
Sunshine Stars v Club Africain
0-1, 0-0 (agg 0-1)

SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SuperSport	10	7	3	0	22	6	24
Kaizer Ch'fs	10	6	2	2	13	7	20
Moroka Sw's	10	6	2	2	16	13	20
Mamelodi S's	10	5	4	1	19	8	19
Free State	10	5	2	3	12	9	17
Orlando P'tes	10	4	3	3	9	7	15
Bloemfontein	10	4	2	4	13	10	14
Ajax	10	4	2	4	13	17	14
Maritzburg	10	3	5	2	11	15	14
AmaZulu	10	3	3	4	10	8	12
Wits Univ	10	3	3	4	12	12	12
Platinum Stars	10	3	2	5	12	13	11
Santos	10	3	1	6	10	15	10
Golden Arrows	10	2	1	7	10	20	7
Black L'pards	10	1	3	6	7	20	6
Jomo Cosmos	10	0	4	6	6	15	4

Standings on Nov 8

30-round season (15x2); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semi-finals

1st legs - Oct 19; 2nd legs - Oct 26
Al Ittihad (Sau) v Jeonbuk Motors (SKo)
2-3, 1-2 (agg 3-5)
Suwon Bluewings (SKo) v Al Sadd (Qat)
0-2, 1-0 (agg 1-2)

Final

Nov 5 - Jeonju (World Cup stadium), South Korea
Jeonbuk Motors 2 (Eninho 17, Lee Seung-hyun 90)
Al Sadd 2 (Sim Woo-yeon og 29, Keita 61)
Aet. **HT:** 1-1. **90mins:** 2-2. **Att:** 41,805.
Ref: Irmatov (Uzb)
Al Sadd 4-2 on pens
Jeonbuk: Kim Min-sik - Kim Sang-sik, Sim Woo-yeon, Choi Chul-soon, Son Seung-joon, Park Won-jae, Eninho, Jung Hoon (Kim Dong-chan 51), Jeong Seong-hoon, Seo Jung-jin (Lee Seung-hyun 70), Luiz Henrique (Lee Dong-gook 70).
Al Sadd: Saqr - Belhadj, Majid, Obaid, Lee Jung-soo, Kasola (Zakariya 53), Keita (Afif 90+5), Al Bloushi, Rizik, Ibrahim (Khalid 74), Niang. *Sent off: Afif 120min.*

AFC CUP

Semi-finals

1st legs - Oct 4; 2nd legs - Oct 18
Arbil (Irq) v Kuwait SC (Kuw) 0-2, 3-3 (agg 3-5)
Nasaf (Uzb) v Al Wehdat (Jor) 1-0, 1-1 (agg 2-1)

CHINA

Striker shot dead

Colombian striker Edison Chara of second division side Dalian Aerbin was shot dead in the Cauca region of his homeland following a dispute during a card game.

The 31-year-old, who began his career with Atletico Huila, joined the Chinese club in March.

JAPAN

Antlers in extra-time

Kashima Antlers beat Urawa Red Diamonds 1-0 in the J.League Cup Final. After both sides had been reduced to 10 men in a goalless 90 minutes, Yuya Osako broke the deadlock midway through extra-time to secure a sixth major trophy in five years for Kashima.

First timers...Nasaf

UZBEKISTAN

Nasaf make history

Nasaf become the first Uzbekistan side to win the AFC Cup, beating Kuwait SC 2-1 in the Final with goals from Ilkhom Shomurodov and Andrejs Pereplotkins.

Bunyodkor clinched their fourth successive league title after beating fourth-placed Neftchi 1-0.

Final

Oct 29 - Qarshi (Central stadium), Uzbekistan
Nasaf 2 (Shomurodov 63, Pereplotkins 66)
Kuwait SC 1 (Kabi 69)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,753. **Ref:** Kim (SKo)
Nasaf: Zukhurov - Karaev, Malisic, Karimov, Jiamurodov, Gevorkyan, L Turayev, Badullayev, Pereplotkins, Boskovic (Filiposyan 90+4), Shomurodov (Musayev 84).
Kuwait SC: Al Fadhli - Abdullah, Shaheen, A Al Shammari (Al Buraiky 61), H Al Shammari (A Al Kandari 80), Ali, Fane, Al Shaqqath, Rogerinho, Kabi, K Al Shammari.

AUSTRALIA

Regular season

Oct 8: Newcastle 3 Melbourne Heart 2; Melbourne Victory 0 Sydney 0; Brisbane 1 Central Coast 0.
Oct 9: Gold Coast 1 Wellington 1; Perth 1 Adelaide 0.
Oct 14: Adelaide 1 Melbourne Victory 0.
Oct 15: Central Coast 1 Gold Coast 1; Sydney 0 Brisbane 2.
Oct 16: Wellington 2 Newcastle 0; Melbourne Heart 1 Perth 2.
Oct 21: Brisbane 3 Gold Coast 0.
Oct 22: Adelaide 1 Sydney 2; Melbourne Victory 0 Melbourne Heart 0.
Oct 23: Newcastle 1 Central Coast 0; Perth 1 Wellington 0.
Oct 28: Brisbane 7 Adelaide 1.
Oct 29: Central Coast 2 Perth 1; Melbourne Heart 1 Sydney 1.
Oct 30: Wellington 1 Melbourne Victory 2; Gold Coast 3 Newcastle 1.
Nov 4: Wellington 1 Central Coast 2; Adelaide 1 Melbourne Heart 1.
Nov 5: Newcastle 2 Perth 0; Melbourne Victory 2 Brisbane 2.
Nov 6: Sydney 3 Gold Coast 2.

AUSTRALIA – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane	5	4	1	0	15	3	13
Newcastle	5	3	0	2	7	7	9
Perth	5	3	0	2	5	5	9
Sydney	5	2	2	1	6	6	8
Central Coast	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
Melbourne V	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
Gold Coast	5	1	2	2	7	9	5
Wellington	5	1	1	3	5	6	4
Adelaide	5	1	1	3	4	11	4
Melbourne H	5	0	3	2	5	7	3

27-round regular season (9x3); top 6 will enter championship play-offs; no relegation from this league

CHINA

CHINA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guangzhou (C)	30	20	8	2	67	23	68
Beijing	30	14	11	5	49	21	53
Liaoning	30	14	8	8	38	23	50
Jiangsu	30	14	5	11	43	28	47
Shandong	30	13	8	9	37	31	47
Qingdao	30	12	9	9	37	33	45
Changchun	30	11	12	7	33	31	45
Hangzhou	30	10	9	11	28	32	39
Shaanxi	30	10	8	12	34	41	38
Tianjin	30	8	13	9	37	41	37
Shanghai	30	11	4	15	31	41	37
Dalian	30	7	11	12	27	43	32
Henan	30	7	11	12	29	35	32
Nanchang	30	8	5	17	20	41	29
Chengdu (R)	30	5	12	13	27	47	27
Shenzhen (R)	30	5	8	17	27	53	23

JAPAN

Oct 15: Cerezo 0 Ventforet 4; Jubilo 1 Kashima 2; Yokohama 1 Sanfrecce 1; Vissel 1 Shimizu 1; Avispa 0 Vegalta 3; Urawa 0 Omiya 1; Nagoya 4 Gamba 1.
Oct 16: Kashiwa 1 Montedio 0; Kawasaki 1 Albirex 2.
Oct 22: Yokohama 1 Urawa 2; Sanfrecce 1 Kashiwa 3; Vegalta 0 Kawasaki 0; Omiya 2 Nagoya 3; Montedio 0 Gamba 5; Kashima 1 Vissel 1.
Oct 23: Shimizu 3 Ventforet 0; Albirex 3 Avispa 1; Jubilo 0 Cerezo 4.
Nov 3: Gamba 1 Kashima 0; Nagoya 3 Cerezo 1; Ventforet 1 Yokohama 2; Kashiwa 4 Albirex 0; Kawasaki 0 Omiya 1; Avispa 2 Shimizu 2; Urawa 0 Jubilo 3; Vegalta 0 Sanfrecce 0; Vissel 2 Montedio 0.

JAPAN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kashiwa	31	21	2	8	59	39	65
Gamba	31	19	6	6	72	48	63
Nagoya	31	18	8	5	61	35	62
Yokohama	31	16	7	8	44	34	55
Vegalta	31	13	13	5	37	24	52
Kashima	31	12	9	10	48	38	45
Shimizu	31	11	12	8	40	43	45
Sanfrecce	31	12	8	11	43	43	44
Jubilo	31	11	8	12	48	40	41
Vissel	31	11	7	13	38	42	40
Cerezo	31	10	9	12	59	48	39
Kawasaki	31	11	5	15	45	49	38
Albirex	31	10	8	13	36	40	38
Omiya	31	9	11	11	32	42	38
Urawa	31	7	11	13	33	39	32
Ventforet	31	8	6	17	37	58	30
Montedio (R)	31	5	6	20	22	53	21
Avispa (R)	31	5	4	22	27	66	19

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

SOUTH KOREA

Regular season

Oct 8: Suwon 2 Jeonbuk 2; Seongnam 3 Gangwon 1.
Oct 9: Daegu 1 Gwangju 2.
Oct 16: Chunnam 0 Gwangju 2; Busan 3 Jeju 1; Incheon 1 Seoul 1; Daejeon 1 Sangju 3; Gyeongnam 3 Daegu 0; Ulsan 2 Pohang 1.
Oct 22: Jeonbuk 0 Daejeon 0; Sangju 1 Gyeongnam 3; Jeju 2 Incheon 1; Pohang 1 Chunnam 1; Ulsan 1 Busan 0.
Oct 23: Gwangju 0 Suwon 1; Gangwon 1 Daegu 0; Seoul 3 Seongnam 1.
Oct 30: Incheon 0 Sangju 0; Seongnam 1 Pohang 3; Daegu 0 Ulsan 0; Gyeongnam 0 Seoul 3; Chunnam 1 Jeonbuk 1; Busan 2 Gangwon 0; Daejeon 1 Gwangju 0; Suwon 2 Jeju 0.

SOUTH KOREA – REGULAR – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jeonbuk	30	18	9	3	67	32	63
Pohang	30	17	8	5	59	33	59
Seoul	30	16	7	7	56	38	55
Suwon	30	17	4	9	51	33	55
Busan	30	13	7	10	49	43	46
Ulsan	30	13	7	10	33	29	46
Chunnam	30	11	10	9	33	29	43
Gyeongnam	30	12	6	12	41	40	42
Jeju	30	10	10	10	44	45	40
Seongnam	30	9	8	13	43	47	35
Gwangju	30	9	8	13	32	43	35
Daegu	30	8	9	13	35	46	33
Incheon	30	6	14	10	31	40	32
Sangju	30	7	8	15	36	53	29
Daejeon	30	6	9	15	31	59	27
Gangwon	30	3	6	21	14	45	15

Top 6 enter championship play-offs

OCEANIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Oct 29: Waitakere United (NZ) 10 Tefana (Tah) 0.
Oct 30: Ba (Fij) 2 Mont-Dore (NC) 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Waitakere	1	1	0	0	10	0	3
Ba	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Mont-Dore	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Tefana	1	0	0	1	0	10	0

Group B

Oct 29: Amicale (Van) 1 Hekari United (PNG) 1; Koloale (Sol) 1 Auckland City (NZ) 4.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Auckland	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Hekari Utd	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Amicale	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Koloale	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

Group winners qualify for Final

NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canterbury	2	2	0	0	9	0	6
Waitakere	2	2	0	0	9	0	6
Auckland	2	2	0	0	9	3	6
T'm Wellington	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
Hawkes Bay	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
YoungHeart	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
Otago	2	0	1	1	2	8	1
Waikato	2	0	0	2	1	10	0

Standings on Nov 8
14-round regular season; top 4 will enter championship play-offs

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions (R) = relegated (Q) = qualified

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

November 30 and December 1
Europa League group games
December 2
Euro 2012 finals draw
December 4
CAF Confederation Cup Final, second leg
December 6 and 7
UEFA Champions League last group games
December 8 to 18
Club World Cup
December 9
CECAFA Cup Final
December 10
CAF Under-23 Championship Final
December 14 and 15
Europa League last group games
December 16
UEFA Champions League round of 16 draw; Europa League round of 32 and round of 16 draws

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SQUADS: BUNDESLIGA 2011-12

AUGSBURG

GOALKEEPERS	
30 Mohamed AMSIF	07.02.89
37 Joannis GELIOS	24.04.92
1 Simon JENTZSCH	04.05.76
DEFENDERS	
8 Axel BELLINGHAUSEN	17.05.83
18 Jan-Ingwer CALLSEN-BRACKER	23.09.84
6 Jonas DE ROECK (Blg)	20.12.79
15 Sebastian LANGKAMP	15.01.86
5 Uwe MOHRLE	03.12.79
4 Dominik REINHARDT	19.12.84
3 Gibril SANKOH (SLe)	15.05.83
2 Paul VERHAEGH (Hol)	01.09.83
MIDFIELDERS	
25 Dawda BAH (Gam)	16.11.83
10 Daniel BAIER	16.05.84
24 Daniel BRINKMANN	29.01.86
26 Lorenzo DAVIDS (Hol)	04.09.86
17 Marcel DE JONG (Can)	15.10.86
28 Akaki GOGIA (Geo)	16.01.92
7 Hajime HOSOGAI (Jap)	10.06.86
20 Marcel NDJENG (Cam)	06.05.82
29 Moritz NEBEL	25.09.91
23 Andrew SINKALA (Zam)	16.06.79
31 Marco THIEDE	20.05.92
13 Tobias WERNER	19.07.85
FORWARDS	
36 Stephan HAIN	27.09.88
22 Edmond KAPLLANI (Alb)	31.07.82
19 Patrick MAYER	28.03.88
33 Sascha MOLDERS	20.03.85
9 Torsten OEHRL	07.01.86
11 Nando RAFAEL	10.01.84
27 Michael THURK	28.05.76
COACH	
Jos LUHUKAY (Hol)	13.06.63

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Rene ADLER	15.01.85
36 Fabian GIEFER	17.05.90
23 Bernd LENO	04.03.92
22 David YELLDELL (USA)	01.10.81
DEFENDERS	
27 Gonzalo CASTRO	11.06.87
20 Danny DA COSTA	13.07.93
5 Manuel FRIEDRICH	13.09.79
24 Michal KADLEC (CzR)	13.12.84
4 Bastian OCZIPKA	12.01.89
3 Stefan REINARTZ	01.01.89
2 Daniel SCHWAAB	23.08.88
21 Omer TOPRAK (Tur)	21.07.89
MIDFIELDERS	
14 Hanno BALITSCH	02.01.81
13 Michael BALLACK	26.09.76
7 Tranquillo BARNETTA (Swi)	22.05.85
38 Karim BELLARABI	08.04.90
8 Lars BENDER	27.04.89
17 Michael ORTEGA (Col)	06.04.91
10 RENATO AUGUSTO (Bra)	08.02.88
6 Simon ROLFES	21.01.82
18 Sidney SAM	31.01.88
FORWARDS	
19 Eren DERDIYOK (Swi)	12.06.88
31 Nicolai JORGENSEN (Den)	15.01.91
11 Stephan KIESSLING	25.01.84
9 Andre SCHURRLE	06.11.90
COACH	
Robin DUTT	24.01.65

BAYERN MUNICH

GOALKEEPERS	
22 Hans-Jorg BUTT	28.05.74
1 Manuel NEUER	27.03.86
24 Maximilian RIEDMULLER	04.01.88
32 Rouven SATTELMAIER	07.08.87
DEFENDERS	
28 Holger BADSTUBER	13.03.89
17 Jerome BOATENG	03.09.88
2 BRENO (Bra)	13.10.89
26 Diego CONTENTO	01.05.90
21 Philipp LAHM	11.11.83
13 RAFINHA (Bra)	07.09.85
5 Daniel VAN BUYTEN (Blg)	07.02.78
MIDFIELDERS	
27 David ALABA (Aut)	24.06.92
39 Toni KROOS	04.01.90
30 LUIZ GUSTAVO (Bra)	23.07.87
23 Danijel PRANJIC (Cro)	02.12.81
7 Franck RIBERY (Fra)	01.04.83
31 Bastian SCHWEINSTEIGER	01.08.84
44 Anatoliy TYMOSHCHUK (Ukr)	30.03.79
14 Takashi USAMI (Jap)	06.05.92
FORWARDS	
33 Mario GOMEZ	10.07.85
25 Thomas MULLER	13.09.89
11 Ivica OLIC (Cro)	14.09.79
9 Nils PETERSEN	06.12.88
10 Arjen ROBBEN (Hol)	23.01.84
COACH	
Jupp HEYNCKES	09.05.45

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

GOALKEEPERS	
41 Johannes FOCHER	20.01.90
20 Mitchell LANGERAK (Aus)	22.08.88
1 Roman WEIDENFELLER	06.08.80
DEFENDERS	
28 Marc HORNSCHUH	02.03.91
15 Mats HUMMELS	16.12.88
2 Julian KOCH	11.11.90
24 Chris LOWE	16.04.89
25 Patrick OWOMOYELA	05.11.79
26 Lukasz PISZCZEK (Pol)	03.06.85
27 Felipe SANTANA (Bra)	17.03.86
29 Marcel SCHMELZER	22.01.88
4 Neven SUBOTIC (Ser)	10.12.88
MIDFIELDERS	
31 Marvin BAKALORZ	13.09.89
22 Sven BENDER	27.04.89
16 Jakub BLASZCZYKOWSKI (Pol)	14.12.85
8 Antonio DA SILVA (Bra)	13.06.78
11 Mario GOTZE	03.06.92
19 Kevin GROSSKREUTZ	19.07.88
21 Ilkay GUNDOGAN	24.10.90
23 Shinji KAGAWA (Jap)	17.03.89
5 Sebastian KEHL	13.02.80
6 Florian KRINGE	18.08.82
7 Moritz LEITNER (Aut)	08.12.92
14 Ivan PERISIC (Cro)	02.02.89
36 Mario VRANCIC	23.05.89
FORWARDS	
18 Lucas BARRIOS (Par)	13.11.84
13 Damien LE TALLEC (Fra)	14.10.90
9 Robert LEWANDOWSKI (Pol)	21.08.88
10 Mohamed ZIDAN (Egy)	11.12.81
COACH	
Jurgen KLOPP	16.06.67

BORUSSIA M'GLADBACH

GOALKEEPERS	
21 Janis BLASWICH	02.05.91
33 Christofer HEIMEROTH	01.08.81
1 Marc-Andre TER STEGEN	30.04.92
DEFENDERS	
4 Roel BROUWERS (Hol)	28.11.81
3 Filip DAEMS (Blg)	31.10.78
31 DANTE (Bra)	18.10.83
24 Tony JANTSCHKE	07.04.90
39 Martin STRANZL (Aut)	16.06.80
17 Oscar WENDT (Swe)	24.10.85
2 Matthias ZIMMERMANN	16.06.92
MIDFIELDERS	
18 Juan ARANGO (Ven)	17.05.80
7 Patrick HERRMANN	12.02.91
27 Julian KORB	21.03.92
14 Thorben MARX	01.06.81
13 Roman NEUSTADTER	18.02.88
16 Havard NORDTVEIT (Nor)	21.06.90
23 Yuki OTSU (Jap)	24.03.90
11 Marco REUS	31.05.89
8 Lukas RUPP	08.01.91
FORWARDS	
9 Raul BOBADILLA (Arg)	18.06.87
10 Igor DE CAMARGO (Blg)	12.05.83
19 Mike HANKE	05.11.83
28 Elias KACHUNGA	22.04.92
15 Joshua KING (Nor)	15.01.92
20 Matthew LECKIE (Aus)	04.02.91
COACH	
Lucien FAVRE (Swi)	02.11.57

COLOGNE

GOALKEEPERS	
26 Timo HORN	12.05.93
1 Michael RENSING	14.05.84
24 Daniel SCHWABKE	19.07.89
22 Miro VARVODIC (Cro)	15.05.89
DEFENDERS	
12 ANDREZINHO (Bra)	09.10.81
2 Miso BRECKO (Slo)	01.05.84
4 Christian EICHNER	24.11.82
21 Pedro GEROMEL (Bra)	21.09.85
3 Ammar JEMAL (Tun)	20.04.87
18 Tomoaki MAKINO (Jap)	11.05.87
23 Kevin McKENNA (Can)	21.01.80
17 Henrique SERENO (Por)	18.05.85
MIDFIELDERS	
29 Christopher BUCHTMANN	25.04.92
20 Adil CHIHI (Mor)	21.02.88
19 Mato JAJALO (Cro)	25.05.88
13 Martin LANIG	11.07.84
25 Adam MATUSCHYK (Pol)	14.02.89
15 Slawomir PESZKO (Pol)	19.02.85
8 PETIT (Por)	25.09.76
6 Kevin PEZZONI	22.03.89
5 Sascha RIETHER	23.03.83
28 Odise ROSHI (Alb)	22.05.91
30 Wilfried SANOU (BuF)	16.03.84
FORWARDS	
27 Christian CLEMENS	04.08.91
7 Sebastien FRIES	23.04.85
14 Alexandru IONITA (Rom)	05.08.89
38 Thiemo-Jerome KIALKA	12.01.89
11 Milivoje NOVAKOVIC (Slo)	18.05.79
10 Lukas PODOLSKI	04.06.85
31 Mark UTH	24.08.91
COACH	
Stale SOLBAKKEN (Nor)	27.02.68

FREIBURG

GOALKEEPERS	
19 Daniel BATZ	12.01.91
1 Oliver BAUMANN	02.06.90
21 Manuel SALZ	06.08.85
DEFENDERS	
15 Oliver BARTH	06.10.79
3 Felix BASTIANS	09.05.88
5 Heiko BUTSCHER	28.07.80
4 Beg FERATI (Swi)	10.11.86
20 Andreas HINKEL	26.03.82
41 Immanuel HOHN	23.12.91
2 Pavel KRMAS (CzR)	03.03.80
24 Mensur MUJDZA (Cro)	28.03.84
MIDFIELDERS	
6 Yacine ABDESSADKI (Mor)	01.01.81
29 Christian BICKEL	27.01.91
40 Daniel CALIGIURI	15.01.88
18 Johannes FLUM	25.02.88
7 Cedric MAKIADI (DRC)	23.02.84
10 Maximilian NICU (Rom)	25.11.82
14 Anton PUTSILO (Bls)	23.06.87
8 Jan ROSENTHAL	07.04.86
17 Jonathan SCHMID (Fra)	26.06.90
23 Julian SCHUSTER	15.04.85
FORWARDS	
33 Simon BRANDSTETTER	02.05.90
9 Papiss CISSE (Sen)	03.06.85
11 Garra DEMBELE (Mli)	21.02.86
26 Erik JENDRISEK (Slk)	26.10.86
27 Stefan REISINGER	14.09.81
22 Kisho YANO (Jap)	05.04.84
COACH	
Marcus SORG	24.12.65

HAMBURG

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Jaroslav DROBNY (CzR)	09.10.79
29 Tom MICKEL	19.04.89
30 Sven NEUHAUS	04.04.78
DEFENDERS	
6 Dennis AOGO	14.01.87
34 Muhamed BESIC (Bos)	10.09.92
32 Florian BRUGMANN	23.01.91
5 Jeffrey BRUMA (Hol)	13.11.91
2 Dennis DIEKMEIER	20.10.89
3 Michael MANCIENNE (Eng)	08.01.88
23 Slobodan RAJKOVIC (Ser)	03.02.89
19 Lennard SOWAH	23.08.92
33 Miroslav STEPANEK (CzR)	15.01.90
4 Heiko WESTERMANN	14.08.83
MIDFIELDERS	
28 Tolgay ARSLAN (Tur)	16.08.90
27 Soren BERTRAM	05.06.91
18 Romeo CASTELEN (Hol)	03.05.83
11 Ivo ILICEVIC (Cro)	14.11.86
7 Marcell JANSEN	04.11.85
14 David JAROLIM (CzR)	17.05.79
44 Gojko KACAR (Ser)	26.01.87
38 LAM Zhi-gin	04.06.91
8 Tomas RINCON (Ven)	13.01.88
22 Jacopo SALA (Ita)	05.12.91
25 Per Ciljan SKJELBREID (Nor)	16.06.87
42 Mickael TAVARES (Sen)	25.10.82
13 Robert TESCHE	27.05.87
17 Gokhan TORE (Tur)	20.01.92
FORWARDS	
16 Marcus BERG (Swe)	17.08.86
9 Jose Paolo GUERRERO (Per)	01.01.84
10 Mladen PETRIC (Cro)	01.01.81
15 SON Heung-min (SKo)	08.07.92
COACH	
Thorsten FINK	29.10.67

HANOVER

GOALKEEPERS	
14 Markus MILLER	08.04.82
21 Samuel RADLINGER (Aut)	07.11.92
1 Ron-Robert ZIELER	12.02.89
DEFENDERS	
27 Erdal AKDARI (Tur)	05.06.93
35 Christopher AVEVOR	11.02.92
23 Sofian CHAHED (Tun)	18.04.83
6 Steve CHERUNDOLO (USA)	19.02.79
5 Mario EGGIMANN (Swi)	24.01.81
3 Karim HAGGUI (Tun)	20.01.84
24 Christian PANDER	28.08.83
31 Jannis PLASCHKE	06.02.93
4 Emanuel POGATETZ (Aut)	16.01.83
19 Christian SCHULZ	01.04.83
MIDFIELDERS	
2 Leon ANDREASEN (Den)	23.04.83
26 Deniz AYCICEK	05.06.90
20 CARLITOS (Por)	06.09.82
15 Henning HAUGER (Nor)	17.07.85
8 Altin LALA (Alb)	18.11.75
7 Sergio PINTO (Por)	16.10.80
34 Konstantin RAUSCH	15.03.90
16 Daniel ROYER (Aut)	22.05.90
33 Manuel SCHMIEDEBACH	05.12.86
28 Lars STINDL	26.08.88
FORWARDS	
25 Mohammed ABDELLAOUE (Nor)	23.10.85
11 Didier KONAN (IvC)	25.02.84
13 Jan SCHLAUDRAFF	18.07.83
9 Artur SOBIECH (Pol)	12.06.90
17 Moritz STOPPELKAMP	11.12.86
COACH	
Mirko SLOMKA	19.02.67

HERTHA BERLIN

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Maikel AERTS (Hol)	26.06.76
21 Sascha BURCHERT	30.10.89
35 Thomas KRAFT	22.07.88
DEFENDERS	
24 John Anthony BROOKS (USA)	28.01.93
7 Maik FRANZ	05.08.81
4 Roman HUBNIK (CzR)	06.06.84
6 Christoph JANKER	14.02.85
3 Levan KOBIASHVILI (Geo)	10.07.77
2 Christian LELL	29.08.84
5 Andre MIJATOVIC (Cro)	03.12.79
27 Alfredo MORALES (USA)	12.05.90
14 Sebastian NEUMANN	18.02.91
MIDFIELDERS	
17 Anis BEN-HATIRA	18.07.88
20 Patrick EBERT	17.03.87
28 Fabian LUSTENBERGER (Swi)	02.05.88
18 Peter NIEMEYER	22.11.83
8 Andreas OTTL	01.03.85
23 Fanol PERDEDAJ	16.07.91
10 RAFFAEL (Bra)	28.03.85
12 RONNY (Bra)	11.05.86
26 Nico SCHULZ	01.04.93
FORWARDS	
25 Marco DJURICIN (Aut)	12.12.92
33 Abu Bakarr KARGBO	21.12.92
19 Pierre-Michel LASOGGA	15.12.91
9 Adrian RAMOS (Col)	22.01.86
13 Nikita RUKAVYTSYA (Aus)	22.06.87
11 Tunay TORUN (Tur)	21.04.90
COACH	
Markus BABBEL	08.09.72

HOFFENHEIM

GOALKEEPERS	
30 Koen CASTEELS (Blg)	25.06.92
1 Daniel HAAS	01.08.83
33 Tom STARKE	18.03.81
DEFENDERS	
2 Andreas BECK	13.03.87
28 Edson BRAAFHEID (Hol)	08.04.83
5 Marvin COMPPER	14.06.85
35 Kevin CONRAD	10.08.90
37 Manuel GULDE	12.02.91
26 Andreas IBERTSBERGER (Aut)	27.07.82
3 Matthias JAISSLE	05.04.88
16 Fabian JOHNSON	11.12.87
29 Jannik VESTERGAARD (Den)	03.08.92
25 Isaac VORSAH (Gha)	21.06.88
13 Daniel WILLIAMS (USA)	08.03.89
MIDFIELDERS	
21 Dominik KAISER	16.09.88
22 ROBERTO FIRMINO (Bra)	02.10.91
6 Sebastian RUDY	28.02.90
23 Sejad SALIHOVIC (Bos)	08.10.84
11 Gylfi SIGURDSSON (Ice)	09.09.89
7 Boris VUKCEVIC	16.03.90
17 Tobias WEIS	30.07.85
FORWARDS	
10 Ryan BABEL (Hol)	19.12.86
19 Vedad IBISEVIC (Bos)	06.08.84
15 Peniel Kokou MLAPA	20.02.91
8 Knowledge MUSONA (Zim)	21.06.90
20 Chinedu OBASI (Nga)	01.06.86
9 Sven SCHIPPLOCK	08.11.88
34 Denis THOMALLA	16.08.92
COACH	
Holger STANISLAWSKI	26.09.69

KAISERSLAUTERN

GOALKEEPERS	
27 Marco KNALLER (Aut)	26.03.87
1 Tobias SIPPEL	22.03.88
29 Kevin TRAPP	08.07.90
DEFENDERS	
6 Mathias ABEL	22.06.81
5 Martin AMEDICK	06.09.82
17 Alexander BUGERA	08.08.78
23 Florian DICK	09.11.84
3 Leon JESSEN (Den)	11.06.86
24 LUCAS (Bra)	14.07.91
34 Willi ORBAN	03.11.92
20 RODNEI (Bra)	11.09.85
2 Jan SIMUNEK (CzR)	20.02.87
MIDFIELDERS	
18 Chadlj AMRI (Alg)	14.12.84
19 Jiri BILEK (CzR)	04.11.83
21 Pierre DE WIT	26.09.87
28 Kostas FORTOUNIS (Gre)	16.10.92
7 Oliver KIRCH	21.08.82
13 Thanos PETSOS (Gre)	05.06.91
25 Stiven RIVIC (Cro)	09.08.85
10 Olcay SAHAN (Tur)	26.05.87
8 Christian TIFFERT	18.02.82
14 Gil VERMOUTH (Isr)	05.08.85
15 Clemens WALCH (Aut)	10.07.87
FORWARDS	
35 Julian DERSTROFF	05.01.92
30 Dorge KOUEMAHA (Cam)	26.06.83
11 Ilijan MICANSKI (Bul)	20.12.85
32 Adam NEMEC (Slk)	02.09.85
9 Itay SHECHTER (Isr)	22.02.87
16 Richard SUKUTA-PASU	24.06.90
26 Stefan ZELLNER	14.03.91
COACH	
Marco KURZ	16.05.69

MAINZ

GOALKEEPERS	
21 Loris KARIUS	22.06.93
33 Heinz MULLER	30.05.78
29 Christian WETKLO	11.01.80
DEFENDERS	
26 Niko BUNGERT	24.10.86
18 Malik FATHI	29.10.83
5 Eugen GOPKO	05.01.91
15 Jan KIRCHHOFF	01.10.90
4 Nikolce NOVESKI (Mac)	28.04.79
3 Zdenek POSPECH (CzR)	14.12.78
34 Fabian SCHONHEIM	14.02.87
2 Bo SVENSSON (Den)	04.08.79
8 Radoslav ZABAVNIK (Slk)	16.09.80
MIDFIELDERS	
14 Julian BAUMGARTLINGER (Aut)	02.01.88
6 Marco CALIGIURI	14.04.84
16 Florian HELLER	10.03.82
25 Andreas IVANSCHITZ (Aut)	15.10.83
11 Yunus MALLI	24.02.92
27 Nicolai MULLER	25.09.87
7 Eugen POLANSKI (Pol)	17.03.86
23 Marcel RISSE	17.12.89
19 Elkin SOTO (Col)	04.08.80
17 Zoltan STIEBER (Hun)	16.10.88
FORWARDS	
9 Sami ALLAGUI (Tun)	28.05.86
10 Eric Maxim CHOUPO-MOTING (Cam)	23.03.89
22 Mario GAVRANOVIC (Swi)	24.11.89
28 Adam SZALAI (Hun)	09.12.87
13 Anthony UJAH (Nga)	20.11.90
30 Deniz YILMAZ (Tur)	26.02.88
COACH	
Thomas TUCHEL	29.08.73

NUREMBERG

GOALKEEPERS	
22 Patrick RAKOVSKY	02.06.93
1 Raphael SCHAFER	30.01.79
30 Alexander STEPHAN	15.09.86
32 Benjamin UPHOFF	08.08.93
DEFENDERS	
26 Timothy CHANDLER (USA)	29.03.90
15 Timm KLOSE (Swi)	09.05.88
6 Dominic MAROH	04.03.87
3 Per NILSSON (Swe)	15.09.82
25 Javier PINOLA (Arg)	24.02.83
21 Marvin PLATTENHARDT	26.01.92
38 Philipp WOLLSCHEID	06.03.89
MIDFIELDERS	
18 Almog COHEN (Isr)	01.09.88
20 Daniel DIDAVI	21.02.90
7 Markus FEULNER	12.02.82
17 Mike FRANTZ	14.10.86
13 Jens HEGELER	22.01.88
16 Juri JUDT	24.07.86
24 Wilson KAMAVUAKA (DRC)	29.03.90
2 Timmy SIMONS (Blg)	11.12.76
28 Manuel ZEITZ	01.08.90
FORWARDS	
10 Albert BUNJAKU (Swi)	29.11.83
8 Christian EIGLER	01.01.84
33 Alexander ESSWEIN	25.03.90
14 Robert MAK (Slk)	08.03.91
27 Markus MENDLER	07.01.93
9 Tomas PEKHART (CzR)	26.05.89
31 Julian WIESSMEIER	04.11.92
COACH	
Dieter HECKING	12.09.64

SCHALKE

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Ralf FAHRMANN	27.09.88
34 Timo HILDEBRAND	05.04.79
33 Mathias SCHOBER	08.04.76
36 Lars UNNERSTALL	20.07.90
DEFENDERS	
3 Sergio ESCUDERO (Spa)	02.09.89
23 Christian FUCHS (Aut)	07.04.86
6 Tim HOOGLAND	11.06.85
4 Benedikt HOWEDES	29.02.88
21 Christoph METZELDER	05.11.80
14 Kyriakos PAPADOPOULOS (Gre)	23.02.92
2 Hans SARPEI (Gha)	28.06.76
22 Atsuto UCHIDA (Jap)	27.03.88
MIDFIELDERS	
11 Alexander BAUMJOHANN	23.01.87
31 Julian DRAXLER	20.09.93
12 Marco HOGER	16.09.89
10 Lewis HOLTBY	18.09.90
13 Jermaine JONES (USA)	03.11.81
18 Jose Manuel JURADO (Spa)	29.06.86
30 Levan KENIA (Geo)	18.10.90
24 Peer KLUGE	22.11.80
32 Joel MATIP (Cam)	08.08.91
16 Jan MORAVEK (CzR)	01.11.89
28 Christoph MORITZ	27.01.90
FORWARDS	
17 Jefferson FARFAN (Per)	28.10.84
25 Klaas-Jan HUNTELAAR (Hol)	12.08.83
8 Ciprian MARICA (Rom)	02.10.85
20 Teemu PUKKI (Fin)	29.03.90
7 RAUL (Spa)	27.06.77
26 Andreas WIEGEL	21.07.91
COACH	
Huub STEVENS (Hol)	29.11.53

STUTTGART

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Sven ULREICH	03.08.88
22 Marc ZIEGLER	13.06.76
DEFENDERS	
38 Ermin BICAKCIC (Bos)	24.01.90
15 Arthur BOKA (IvC)	02.04.83
21 Khalid BOULAHROUZ (Hol)	28.12.81
27 Stefano CELOZZI	02.11.88
17 Mathieu DELPIERRE (Fra)	26.04.81
3 Cristian MOLINARO (Ita)	30.07.83
6 Georg NIEDERMEIER	26.02.86
14 Francisco RODRIGUEZ (Mex)	20.10.81
5 Serdar TASCI	24.04.87
MIDFIELDERS	
11 Johan AUDEL (Fra)	12.12.83
24 Mamadou BAH (Gui)	25.04.88
13 Timo GEBHART	12.04.89
20 Christian GENTNER	14.08.85
28 Tamas HAJNAL (Hun)	15.03.81
8 Zdravko KUZMANOVIC (Ser)	22.09.87
4 William KVIST (Den)	24.02.85
16 Ibrahima TRAORE (Gui)	21.04.88
FORWARDS	
18 CACAU	27.03.81
7 Martin HARNIK (Aut)	10.06.87
31 Shinji OKAZAKI (Jap)	16.04.86
29 Pavel POGREBNYAK (Rus)	08.11.83
23 Julian SCHIEBER	13.02.89
COACH	
Bruno LABBADIA	08.02.66

WERDER BREMEN

GOALKEEPERS	
21 Sebastian MIELITZ	18.07.89
33 Christian VANDER	24.10.80
1 Tim WIESE	17.12.81
DEFENDERS	
37 Leon BALOGUN	26.06.88
2 Sebastian BOENISCH (Pol)	01.02.87
8 Clemens FRITZ	07.12.80
26 Florian HARTHERZ	29.05.93
4 NALDO (Bra)	10.09.82
22 Sokratis PAPASTATHOPOULOS (Gre)	09.06.88
15 Sebastian PRODL (Aut)	21.06.87
13 Lukas SCHMITZ	13.10.88
16 Mikael SILVESTRE (Fra)	09.08.77
23 Andreas WOLF	12.06.82
MIDFIELDERS	
44 Philipp BARGFREDE	03.03.89
6 Tim BOROWSKI	02.05.80
20 Mehmet EKICI (Tur)	25.03.90
14 Aaron HUNT	04.09.86
17 Aleksandar IGNJOVSKI (Ser)	27.01.91
18 Felix KROOS	12.03.91
10 Marko MARIN	13.03.89
34 Aleksandar STEVANOVIC (Ser)	16.02.92
31 Predrag STEVANOVIC (Ser)	09.03.91
25 Tom TRYBULL	09.03.93
5 WESLEY (Bra)	24.06.87
FORWARDS	
7 Marko ARNAUTOVIC (Aut)	19.04.89
9 Denni AVDIC (Swe)	05.09.88
46 Onur AYIK (Tur)	26.01.90
24 Claudio PIZARRO (Per)	03.10.78
11 Markus ROSENBERG (Swe)	27.09.82
36 Lennart THY	25.02.92
19 Sandro WAGNER	29.11.87
COACH	
Thomas SCHAAF	30.04.61

WOLFSBURG

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Diego BENAGLIO (Swi)	08.09.83
35 Marwin HITZ (Swi)	18.09.87
12 Andre LENZ	19.11.73
DEFENDERS	
26 Hrvoje CALE (Cro)	04.03.85
25 CHRIS (Bra)	25.08.78
31 Robin KNOCHE	22.05.92
16 Sotirios KYRGIAKOS (Gre)	23.07.79
17 Alexander MADLUNG	11.07.82
2 Patrick OCHS	14.05.84
23 Marco RUSS	04.08.85
4 Marcel SCHAFER	07.06.84
36 Bjarne THOLKE	11.04.92
15 Christian TRASCH	01.09.87
MIDFIELDERS	
27 Maximilian ARNOLD	27.05.94
14 Tolga CIGERCI	23.03.92
24 Ashkan DEJAGAH (Irn)	05.07.86
13 Makoto HASEBE (Jap)	18.01.84
10 Thomas HITZLSPERGER	05.04.82
6 Aliaksandr HLEB (Bls)	01.05.81
7 JOSUE (Bra)	19.07.79
8 Thomas KAHLENBERG (Den)	20.03.83
22 Mateusz KLICH (Pol)	13.06.90
5 KOO Ja-cheol (SKo)	27.02.89
30 Yohandry OROZCO (Ven)	19.03.91
29 Jan POLAK (CzR)	14.03.81
11 Hasan SALIHAMIDZIC (Bos)	01.01.77
FORWARDS	
33 Patrick HELMES	01.03.84
19 Rasmus JONSSON (Swe)	27.01.90
9 Srdjan LAKIC (Cro)	02.10.83
18 Mario MANDZUKIC (Cro)	21.05.86
21 Kevin SCHEIDHAUER	13.02.92
COACH	
Felix MAGATH	26.07.53

SQUADS: LA LIGA 2011-12

ATHLETIC BILBAO

GOALKEEPERS		
33	Kepa ARRIZABALAGA	03.10.94
30	Aitor FERNANDEZ	03.05.91
1	Gorka IRAIZOZ	06.03.81
13	RAUL	13.03.88
DEFENDERS		
20	AITOR OCIO	28.11.76
5	Fernando AMOREBIETA (Ven)	21.03.85
3	Jon AURTENETXE	03.01.92
22	Xabier CASTILLO	29.03.86
23	Borja EKIZA	06.03.88
15	Andoni IRADLA	22.06.82
12	KOIKILI	23.12.80
31	Jonas RAMALHO	10.06.93
6	Mikel SAN JOSE	30.05.89
16	Ivan ZUBIAURRE	22.01.83
MIDFIELDERS		
7	DAVID LOPEZ	10.09.82
10	Oscar DE MARCOS	14.04.89
11	Igor GABILONDO	10.02.79
18	Carlos GURPEGI	19.08.80
21	Ander HERRERA	14.08.89
8	Ander ITURRASPE	08.03.89
26	Igor MARTINEZ	19.07.89
24	Javi MARTINEZ	02.09.88
17	Inigo PEREZ	18.01.88
29	Enric SABORIT	27.04.92
34	Aitor SEGUIN	27.04.95
14	Markel SUSAETA	14.12.87
2	Gaizka TOQUERO	09.08.84
FORWARDS		
28	Ibai GOMEZ	11.11.89
27	GUILLERMO	23.05.93
9	Fernando LLORENTE	26.02.85
19	Iker MUNIAIN	19.12.92
COACH		
	Marcelo BIELSA (Arg)	21.07.55

ATLETICO MADRID

GOALKEEPERS		
25	Sergio ASENJO	28.06.89
13	Thibault COURTOIS (Blg)	11.05.92
1	JOEL Robles	17.06.90
DEFENDERS		
3	ANTONIO LOPEZ	13.09.81
18	Alvaro DOMINGUEZ	16.05.89
6	FILIPE Luis (Bra)	09.08.85
2	Diego GODIN (Uru)	16.02.86
37	GRACI	07.05.92
30	Quique MARTIN	02.04.90
33	Carlos MENDOZA	30.01.92
23	MIRANDA (Bra)	07.09.84
21	Luis PEREA (Col)	30.01.79
36	Angel PROPIN	10.02.90
24	Jorge PULIDO	08.04.91
28	SAMUEL	18.07.90
17	SILVIO (Por)	28.09.87
MIDFIELDERS		
11	ARDA Turan (Tur)	30.01.87
12	Paulo ASSUNCAO (Bra)	25.01.80
35	Papa Ibrahima DIATTA (Sen)	27.05.92
22	DIEGO (Bra)	28.02.85
14	GABI	10.07.83
32	Sebastian GALLEGOS (Uru)	18.01.92
20	JUANFRAN	09.01.85
19	KOKE	08.01.92
27	Adrian LLANO	23.04.91
4	MARIO SUAREZ	24.02.87
10	Jose Antonio REYES	01.09.83
5	TIAGO (Por)	02.05.81
FORWARDS		
7	ADRIAN Lopez	08.01.88
9	Radamel FALCAO (Col)	10.02.86
34	Domenech FERNANDEZ	22.01.92
31	Momar N'DOYE (Sen)	10.03.92
26	Abdelkaler QUESLATI (Fra)	07.10.91
15	PIZZI (Por)	06.10.89
6	Eduardo SALVIO (Arg)	13.05.90
COACH		
	Gregorio MANZANO	11.03.56

BARCELONA

GOALKEEPERS		
31	Ruben MINO	18.01.89
36	Oier OLAZABAL	14.09.89
13	Jose Manuel PINTO	15.11.75
1	Victor VALDES	14.01.82
DEFENDERS		
22	Eric ABIDAL (Fra)	11.07.79
32	Marc BARTRA	15.01.91
2	DANI ALVES (Bra)	06.05.83
38	Kiko FEMENIA	02.02.91
33	Sergi GOMEZ	28.07.92
19	MAXWELL (Bra)	27.08.81
35	Martin MONTOYA	14.04.91
26	Marc MUNIESA	27.03.92
3	Gerard PIQUE	02.02.87
5	Carles PUYOL	13.04.78
MIDFIELDERS		
21	ADRIANO (Bra)	26.10.84
20	Ibrahim AFELLAY (Hol)	02.04.86
16	Sergio BUSQUETS	16.07.88
28	Jonathan DOS SANTOS (Mex)	26.04.90
4	Cesc FABREGAS	04.05.87
24	Andreu FONTAS	14.11.89
8	Andres INIESTA	11.05.84
15	Seydou KEITA (Mli)	16.01.80
14	Javier MASCHERANO (Arg)	08.06.84
34	RAFINHA	12.02.93
29	Marti RIVEROLA	26.01.91
30	Sergi ROBERTO	07.02.92
11	THIAGO Alcantara	11.04.91
6	XAVI	25.01.80
FORWARDS		
39	Isaac CUENCA	27.04.91
27	Gerard DEULOFEU	13.03.94
10	Lionel MESSI (Arg)	24.06.87
17	PEDRO	28.07.87
9	Alexis SANCHEZ (Chl)	19.12.88
37	Cristian TELLO	19.08.91
7	David VILLA	03.12.81
COACH		
	Pep GUARDIOLA	18.01.71

ESPANYOL

GOALKEEPERS		
25	Cristian ALVAREZ (Arg)	13.11.85
13	Francisco CASILLA	02.10.86
1	Idriss Carlos KAMENI (Cam)	18.02.84
26	Dinu MOLDOVAN (Rom)	03.05.90
DEFENDERS		
34	Victor ALVAREZ	14.03.93
5	Jordi AMAT	21.03.92
38	Albert CANAL	09.12.90
22	DIDAC	09.06.89
40	Zou FEDOAL (Mor)	01.01.89
18	Juan FORLIN (Arg)	10.01.88
2	Felipe MATTIONI (Bra)	15.10.88
15	Hector MORENO (Mex)	17.01.88
3	Raul RODRIGUEZ	22.09.87
MIDFIELDERS		
24	Juan ALBIN (Uru)	17.07.86
41	Cristian ALFONSO	02.05.89
7	Raul BAENA	02.03.89
28	Carlos CLERC	21.02.92
33	Sergi DARDER	22.12.93
23	Jesus DATOLO (Arg)	19.05.84
14	Ernesto GALAN	17.06.86
42	Cristian GOMEZ	27.07.89
16	JAVI LOPEZ	21.01.86
44	KILIAN	18.05.94
37	Eric LOPEZ	01.04.93
4	Javi MARQUEZ	11.05.86
43	PIRULO	17.04.92
11	ROMARIC (IvC)	04.06.83
31	Pau SENENT	03.05.92
10	Joan VERDU	05.05.83
17	Vladimir WEISS (Slk)	30.11.89
FORWARDS		
8	ALVARO Vazquez	27.04.91
39	Thievy BIFOUMA (Fra)	13.05.92
6	Rui FONTE (Por)	23.03.90
20	Walter PANDIANI (Uru)	27.04.76
9	SERGIO GARCIA	09.06.83
COACH		
	Mauricio POCHETTINO (Arg)	02.03.72

GETAFE

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Jordi CODINA	27.04.82
25	Miguel Angel MOYA	02.04.84
35	Tomeu NADAL	08.02.89
1	Oscar USTARI (Arg)	03.07.86
DEFENDERS		
14	Michelangelo ALBERTAZZI (Ita)	07.01.91
2	Daniel DIAZ (Arg)	13.03.79
5	Alberto LOPO	05.05.80
3	MANE	22.12.81
18	Tsepo MASILELA (SAf)	05.05.85
4	MIGUEL TORRES	28.01.86
15	RAFA	09.04.85
20	Juan VALERA	21.12.84
MIDFIELDERS		
28	Abdelaziz BARRADA (Mor)	19.06.89
22	Javi CASQUERO	19.06.76
10	Jaime GAVILAN	12.05.85
6	Mehdi LACEN (Alg)	15.03.84
12	Pedro LEON	24.11.86
21	MICHEL	09.11.85
7	MIKU (Ven)	19.08.85
11	Pedro MOSQUERA	21.04.88
16	Pedro RIOS	12.12.81
23	Juan RODRIGUEZ	01.04.82
24	RUBEN PEREZ	26.04.89
8	Pablo SARABIA	11.05.92
FORWARDS		
9	Adrian COLUNGA	17.11.84
17	DIEGO CASTRO	02.07.82
19	Dani GUIZA	17.08.80
COACH		
	Luis GARCIA	01.12.72

GRANADA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	JOSE JUAN	24.01.79
25	JULIO CESAR (Bra)	02.09.86
13	ROBERTO	25.01.79
DEFENDERS		
21	David CORTES	29.08.79
15	Pape DIAKHATE (Sen)	21.06.84
8	INGO Lopez	23.07.82
18	Manuel LUCENA	18.11.82
5	Diego MAINZ	29.12.82
2	Allan-Romeo NYOM (Fra)	10.05.88
3	Noe PAMAROT (Fra)	14.04.79
16	Jorge RIBEIRO (Por)	09.11.81
MIDFIELDERS		
23	ABEL	20.02.82
26	Richard BOATENG (Gha)	10.07.92
11	DANI BENITEZ	07.04.87
4	FRAN RICO	03.08.87
17	Carlos MARTINS (Por)	29.04.82
14	MIKEL RICO	01.11.84
9	Yohan MOLLO (Fra)	18.07.89
24	MOISES Hurtado	20.02.81
10	Jaime ROMERO	31.07.90
6	Guilherme SIQUEIRA (Bra)	28.04.86
19	Hassan YEBDA (Alg)	14.05.84
FORWARDS		
22	Alexandre GEIJO (Swi)	05.09.82
7	Odion IGHALO (Nga)	16.06.89
12	Franco JARA (Arg)	15.07.88
20	Ikechukwu UCHE (Nga)	05.01.84
COACH		
	FABRI	25.04.55

LEVANTE

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Gustavo MUNUA (Uru)	27.01.78
13	Keylor NAVAS (CR)	15.12.86
DEFENDERS		
18	Sergio BALLESTEROS	04.09.75
22	Gustavo CABRAL (Arg)	14.10.85
15	Asier DEL HORNO	19.01.81
28	IVAN LOPEZ	23.08.93
17	JAVI VENTA	13.12.75
12	JUANFRAN	15.07.76
3	NANO	07.07.80
19	PEDRO LOPEZ	01.01.83
5	Hector RODAS	07.03.88
MIDFIELDERS		
7	Jose Javier BARKERO	27.04.79
25	Nabil EL ZHAR (Mor)	27.08.86
4	Francisco Javier FARINOS	29.03.78
16	Marc MATEU	16.06.90
6	Miguel PALLARDO	05.06.86
21	RUBEN	19.02.79
23	VALDO	23.04.81
14	XAVI TORRES	21.11.86
FORWARDS		
24	Carlos ARANDA	27.07.80
10	Vicente IBORRA	16.01.88
20	JUANLU	08.05.80
2	Arouna KONE (IvC)	11.11.83
9	RAFA JORDA	11.01.84
11	WELLINGTON SILVA (Bra)	06.01.93
COACH		
	Juan Ignacio MARTINEZ	23.06.64

MALAGA

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Wilfredo CABALLERO (Arg)	28.09.81
35	POL	22.08.91
1	RUBEN	22.06.84
DEFENDERS		
5	Martin DEMICHELIS (Arg)	20.12.80
18	ELISEU (Por)	01.10.83
2	Jesus GAMEZ	10.04.85
14	Joris MATHIJSEN (Hol)	05.04.80
15	Nacho MONREAL	26.02.86
25	Helder ROSARIO (Por)	09.03.80
21	Sergio SANCHEZ	03.04.86
4	Kris STADSGAARD (Den)	01.08.85
3	WELIGTON (Bra)	26.08.79
MIDFIELDERS		
10	APONO	13.02.84
6	Nacho CAMACHO	04.05.90
12	Santi CAZORLA	13.12.84
17	DUDA (Por)	27.06.80
22	ISCO	21.04.92
7	JOAQUIN	21.07.81
16	Enzo MARESCA (Ita)	10.02.80
27	Francisco PORTILLO	13.06.90
28	RECIO	11.01.91
8	Jeremy TOULALAN (Fra)	10.09.83
FORWARDS		
19	Julio BAPTISTA (Bra)	01.10.81
20	Diego BUONANOTTE (Arg)	19.04.88
24	EDINHO (Por)	07.07.82
11	Sebas FERNANDEZ (Uru)	23.05.85
26	JUANMI	20.05.93
23	Jose RONDON (Ven)	16.09.89
9	Ruud VAN NISTELROOY (Hol)	01.07.76
COACH		
	Manuel PELLEGRINI (Chl)	16.09.53

MALLORCA

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Dudu AOUATE (Isr)	17.10.77
1	Juan CATALAYUD	21.12.79
26	YERAY	10.06.92
DEFENDERS		
15	Pablo CACERES (Uru)	22.04.85
22	Pablo CENDROS	01.04.87
21	Marti CRESPI	15.06.87
29	KEVIN	08.09.89
16	Jose NUNES (Por)	07.03.77
4	Ivan RAMIS	25.10.84
2	Gianni ZUIVERLOON (Hol)	30.12.86
MIDFIELDERS		
24	Alejandro ALFARO	23.11.86
28	Pedro BIGAS	15.05.90
11	Gonzalo CASTRO (Uru)	14.09.84
12	CHICO	06.03.87
14	Akihiro IENAGA (Jap)	13.06.86
3	JOAO VICTOR (Bra)	07.11.88
19	Jose Luis MARTI	28.04.75
7	Michael PEREIRA (Fra)	08.12.87
5	Tomas PINA	14.10.87
27	Sergio TEJERA	28.05.90
23	Fernando TISSONE (Arg)	24.07.86
FORWARDS		
10	Tomer HEMED (Isr)	02.05.87
8	Emilio NSUE	30.09.89
18	VICTOR	28.02.85
COACH		
	Joaquin CAPARROS	13.10.55

OSASUNA

GOALKEEPERS		
25	ANDRES Fernandez	17.12.86
1	RICARDO	30.12.71
13	Asier RIESGO	06.10.83
DEFENDERS		
2	Marc BERTRAN	22.05.82
24	DAMIA	15.04.82
12	Ion ECHAIDE	05.01.88
5	LOLO	22.08.84
4	MIGUEL FLANO	19.08.84
20	Jukka RAITALA (Fin)	15.09.88
15	ROVERSIO (Bra)	17.01.84
3	RUBEN Gonzalez	29.01.82
23	SERGIO Fernandez	23.05.77
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Xavier ANNUNZIATA	31.08.87
11	Javier CALLEJA	12.05.78
16	Alvaro CEJUDO	29.01.84
14	Raul GARCIA	11.07.86
6	Javad NEKOUNAM (Irn)	07.09.80
10	Patxi PUNAL	06.09.75
8	Masoud SHOJAEI (Irn)	09.06.84
22	David TIMOR	17.10.89
FORWARDS		
19	Ibrahima BALDE (Sen)	01.09.90
21	Roland LAMAH (Blg)	31.12.87
9	Dejan LEKIC (Ser)	07.06.85
17	NINO	10.06.80
7	Kike SOLA	25.02.86
COACH		
	Jose Luis MENDILIBAR	14.03.61

RACING SANTANDER

GOALKEEPERS	
1 MARIO FERNANDEZ	30.04.88
31 Dani SOTRES	21.05.93
13 TONO	17.12.79
DEFENDERS	
14 ALVARO Gonzalez	08.01.90
3 CHRISTIAN	15.10.85
6 Domingo CISMA	09.02.82
18 Bernardo ESPINOSA (Col)	11.07.89
28 Borja GARCIA	07.01.90
4 OSMAR Barba	08.06.88
2 Jose PICON	13.05.88
19 Marc TORREJON	18.02.86
MIDFIELDERS	
9 Lautaro ACOSTA (Arg)	14.03.88
23 ADRIAN Gonzalez	25.05.88
7 Manuel ARANA	03.12.84
16 Kennedy BAKIRCIOGLU (Swe)	02.11.80
8 Gonzalo COLSA	11.05.79
5 Papakouli DIOP (Sen)	19.03.86
27 Borja DOCAL	03.10.91
20 EDU BEDIA	23.03.89
15 FRANCIS	17.12.81
29 JAIRO	11.07.93
11 Oscar SERRANO	30.09.81
32 TATO	09.07.92
21 Alexandros TZIOLIS (Gre)	13.02.85
FORWARDS	
17 Julian LUQUE	27.03.92
30 Javi MARTINEZ	05.09.89
10 Pedro MUNITIS	19.06.75
24 Ariel NAHUELPAN (Arg)	15.10.87
22 Christian STUANI (Uru)	12.10.86
COACH	
Hector CUPER (Arg)	16.11.55

RAYO VALLECANO

GOALKEEPERS	
1 David COBENO	06.04.82
13 DANI GIMENEZ	30.07.83
26 ISMAEL	23.01.89
DEFENDERS	
5 Alejandro ARRIBAS	01.05.89
15 Raul BRAVO	14.04.81
3 Jose Manuel CASADO	09.08.86
21 JORDI	16.05.87
4 Mikel LABAKA	10.08.80
22 SUELITON (Bra)	19.08.86
2 TITO	11.07.85
MIDFIELDERS	
11 BOTELHO (Bra)	14.12.89
18 JAVI FUEGO	04.01.84
8 MICHEL	30.10.75
20 MICHU	21.03.86
7 Jose Maria MOVILLA	08.02.75
6 RAFA GARCIA	14.01.86
14 Nestor SUSAETA	11.12.84
17 Roberto TRASHORRAS	28.02.81
FORWARDS	
27 Alhassane BANGOURA (Gui)	30.03.92
23 Andrija DELIBASIC (Mne)	24.04.81
19 KOKE	27.04.83
24 Dani PACHECO	05.01.91
29 Alberto PEREA	16.05.90
10 PITI	26.05.81
9 Raul TAMUDO	19.10.77
COACH	
Jose Ramon SANDOVAL	02.05.68

REAL BETIS

GOALKEEPERS	
30 ADRIAN	03.01.87
13 CASTO	18.06.82
25 FABRICIO	31.12.87
1 Inaki GOITIA	02.03.82
DEFENDERS	
4 Antonio AMAYA	31.05.83
17 CHICA	17.05.85
5 Jose Antonio DORADO	10.07.82
2 Jose ISIDORO	01.08.86
29 JUANITO	12.05.88
3 Pedro MARIO	02.02.82
22 NELSON (Por)	10.06.83
32 Manuel PALANCAR	01.01.90
26 Miki ROQUE	08.07.88
6 Dusko TOSIC (Ser)	19.01.85
15 USTARITZ	16.02.83
MIDFIELDERS	
10 BENAT	19.02.87
21 Jose Alberto CANAS	27.05.87
28 EZEQUIEL	12.01.91
18 IRINEY (Bra)	23.04.81
7 JUANMA	29.05.81
36 Alex MARTINEZ	12.08.90
8 Javier MATILLA	01.01.88
11 MOMO	15.07.82
23 NACHO	24.06.80
33 Damian PETCOFF (Arg)	24.05.90
14 SALVA SEVILLA	18.03.84
27 Alvaro VADILLO	12.09.94
FORWARDS	
24 Ruben CASTRO	27.06.81
19 Jorge MOLINA	22.04.82
20 Jefferson MONTERO (Ecu)	01.09.89
9 Jonathan PEREIRA	12.05.87
35 Alejandro POZUELO	20.09.91
16 Roque SANTA CRUZ (Par)	16.08.81
39 SERGIO	07.09.92
COACH	
Pepe Mel	28.02.63

REAL MADRID

GOALKEEPERS	
13 Antonio ADAN	13.05.87
1 Iker CASILLAS	20.05.81
35 Jesus FERNANDEZ	11.06.88
52 Tomas MEJAAS	30.01.89
DEFENDERS	
18 Raul ALBIOL	04.09.85
17 Alvaro ARBELOA	17.01.83
36 Daniel CARVAJAL	11.01.92
2 Ricardo CARVALHO (Por)	18.05.78
27 Nacho FERNANDEZ	18.01.90
12 MARCELO (Bra)	12.05.88
34 Pedro MENDES (Por)	01.10.90
3 PEPE (Por)	26.02.83
4 SERGIO RAMOS	30.03.86
19 Raphael VARANE (Fra)	25.04.93
MIDFIELDERS	
14 Xabi ALONSO	25.11.81
16 Hamit ALTINTOP (Tur)	08.12.82
15 Fabio COENTRAO (Por)	11.03.88
22 Angel DI MARIA (Arg)	14.02.88
24 Lassana DIARRA (Fra)	10.03.85
30 Alex FERNANDEZ	15.10.92
11 Esteban GRANERO	02.07.87
8 KAKA (Bra)	22.04.82
6 Sami KHEDIRA (Ger)	04.04.87
33 MANDI	01.03.89
10 Mesut OZIL (Ger)	15.10.88
5 Nuri SAHIN (Tur)	05.09.88
FORWARDS	
9 Karim BENZEMA (Fra)	19.12.87
21 Jose CALLEJON	11.02.87
20 Gonzalo HIGUAIN (Arg)	10.12.87
28 JESE	26.02.93
29 JOSELU	27.03.90
26 Alvaro MORATA	23.10.92
7 Cristiano RONALDO (Por)	05.02.85
COACH	
Jose MOURINHO (Por)	26.01.63

REAL SOCIEDAD

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Claudio BRAVO (Chl)	13.04.83
25 TONO Ramirez	23.11.86
13 Enaut ZUBIKARAI	26.02.84
DEFENDERS	
15 Ion ANSOTEGI	13.07.82
19 Liassine CADAMURO (Fra)	05.03.88
2 CARLOS MARTINEZ	09.04.86
16 Vladim DEMIDOV (Nor)	10.10.86
26 INIGO MARTINEZ	17.05.91
3 MIKEL GONZALEZ	24.09.85
MIDFIELDERS	
11 Mikel ARANBURU	18.02.79
5 Markel BERGARA	05.05.86
22 DANI ESTRADA	03.01.87
24 Alberto DE LA BELLA	02.12.85
4 Gorka ELUSTONDO	18.03.87
20 Asier ILLARRAMENDI	08.03.90
18 McDonald MARIGA (Ken)	04.04.87
27 Ruben PARDO	22.10.92
14 Jeffrey SARPONG (Hol)	03.08.88
10 XABI PRIETO	29.08.83
17 David ZURUTUZA	19.07.86
FORWARDS	
9 Imanol AGIRRETXE	24.02.87
7 Antoine GRIEZMANN (Fra)	21.03.91
21 Diego IFRAN (Uru)	08.06.87
8 Joseba LLORENTE	24.11.79
23 Carlos VELA (Mex)	01.03.89
COACH	
Philippe MONTANIER (Fra)	15.11.64

REAL ZARAGOZA

GOALKEEPERS	
25 Leo FRANCO (Arg)	20.05.77
1 ROBERTO	10.02.86
DEFENDERS	
21 ABRAHAM	22.02.86
14 Paulo DA SILVA (Par)	01.02.80
2 Efrain JUAREZ (Mex)	22.02.88
5 Maurizio LANZARO (Ita)	14.03.82
4 David MATEOS	22.04.87
6 Fernando MEIRA (Por)	05.06.78
3 Javier PAREDES	05.07.82
22 Adam PINTER (Hun)	12.06.88
MIDFIELDERS	
16 Pablo BARRERA (Mex)	21.06.87
11 JUAN CARLOS	30.03.90
29 KEVIN Lacruz	13.02.92
17 Angel LAFITA	07.08.84
18 Ruben MICAEL (Por)	19.08.86
23 Leonardo PONZIO (Arg)	29.01.82
19 Antonio TOMAS	19.01.85
20 Franco ZUCULINI (Arg)	05.09.90
FORWARDS	
8 EDU DRIOL	05.11.86
10 LUIS GARCIA	06.02.81
26 Jorge ORTI	28.04.93
9 Helder POSTIGA (Por)	02.08.82
27 Joel VALENCIA (Ecu)	16.11.94
COACH	
Javier AGUIRRE (Mex)	21.01.58

SEVILLA

GOALKEEPERS	
29 Dani JIMENEZ	05.03.90
32 JULIAN	28.03.91
1 Andres PALOP	22.10.73
13 Javi VARAS	10.09.82
DEFENDERS	
5 ALEXIS	04.08.85
4 Martin CACERES (Uru)	07.04.87
23 COKE	26.04.87
14 Julien ESCUDE (Fra)	17.08.79
2 Federico FAZIO (Arg)	17.03.87
19 Antonio LUNA	17.03.91
3 Fernando NAVARRO	25.06.82
33 SAMU	15.02.92
6 Emir SPAHIC (Cro)	18.08.80
MIDFIELDERS	
18 Emiliano ARMENTEROS (Arg)	18.01.86
16 Jose CAMPANA	30.05.93
24 Tom DE MUL (Blg)	04.03.86
17 Tiberio GUARENTE (Ita)	01.11.85
7 JESUS NAVAS	21.11.85
8 Gary MEDEL (Chl)	03.08.87
11 Ivan RAKITIC (Cro)	10.03.88
27 SALVA	01.08.90
15 Piotr TROCHOWSKI (Ger)	22.03.84
FORWARDS	
26 Luis ALBERTO	28.09.92
20 Manu DEL MORAL	25.02.84
28 Ibusuki HIROSHI (Jap)	27.02.91
12 Frederic KANOUTE (Mli)	02.09.77
9 Alvaro NEGREDO	20.08.85
10 Diego PEROTTI (Arg)	26.07.88
COACH	
MARCELINO	10.04.55

SPORTING GIJON

GOALKEEPERS	
25 IVAN CUELLAR	25.05.84
1 JUAN PABLO	02.09.78
27 RAUL	01.11.86
DEFENDERS	
29 ALAIN	13.11.89
12 Gregory ARNOLIN (Fra)	10.11.80
2 Alberto BOTIA	27.01.89
26 Pedro ORFILA	06.03.88
17 Damian SUAREZ (Uru)	27.04.88
MIDFIELDERS	
7 AYOZE	22.11.85
30 Alex BARRERA	12.05.91
15 Roberto CANELLA	07.02.88
6 CARMELO	09.07.83
3 CASTRO (Por)	02.04.88
20 Miguel DE LAS CUEVAS	19.06.86
8 Sebastian EGUREN (Uru)	08.01.81
14 IVAN HERNANDEZ	27.02.80
11 Alberto LORA	25.03.87
28 Juan MUNIZ	13.03.92
21 NACHO CASES	22.12.87
22 RICARDO	08.02.83
5 Alberto RIVERA	19.02.78
16 SERGIO ALVAREZ	23.01.92
FORWARDS	
9 Mate BILIC (Cro)	23.10.80
23 DAVID BARRAL	10.05.83
18 LUIS MORAN	26.07.87
32 Formose MENDY (Sen)	23.03.89
31 Alex MENENDEZ	15.07.91
10 Nacho NOVO	26.03.79
19 Gaston SANGOY (Arg)	05.10.84
24 Oscar TREJO (Arg)	26.04.88
COACH	
Manuel PRECIADO	28.08.57

VALENCIA

GOALKEEPERS	
26 ADRIAN	14.01.93
1 DIEGO ALVES (Bra)	24.06.85
13 Vicente GUAITA	18.02.87
DEFENDERS	
12 Antonio BARRAGAN	12.06.87
2 BRUNO Saltor	01.10.80
15 Angel DEALBERT	01.01.83
22 Jeremy MATHIEU (Fra)	29.10.83
23 MIGUEL (Por)	04.01.80
4 Adil RAMI (Fra)	27.12.85
20 RICARDO COSTA (Por)	16.05.81
18 Victor RUIZ	25.01.89
MIDFIELDERS	
17 Jordi ALBA	21.03.89
6 David ALBELDA	01.09.77
10 Ever BANEGA (Arg)	29.06.88
28 Juan BERNAT	01.03.93
16 Sergio CANALES	16.02.91
24 Facundo Alberto COSTA (Arg)	09.01.85
8 Sofiane FEGHOULI (Fra)	26.12.89
3 Hedwiges MADURO (Hol)	13.02.85
19 PABLO Hernandez	11.04.85
21 Daniel PAREJO	16.04.89
29 PORTU	21.05.92
5 Mehmet TOPAL (Tur)	03.03.86
FORWARDS	
11 Aritz ADURIZ	11.02.81
27 Paco ALCACER	30.08.93
7 JONAS (Bra)	01.04.84
14 Pablo PIATTI (Arg)	31.03.89
9 Roberto SOLDADO	27.05.85
COACH	
Unai EMERY	03.11.71

VILLARREAL

GOALKEEPERS	
1 CESAR Sanchez	02.09.71
13 DIEGO LOPEZ	03.11.81
31 Diego MARINO	09.05.90
DEFENDERS	
6 ANGEL	10.03.81
15 Jose CATALA	31.12.84
28 Dorian DERVITE (Fra)	25.07.88
5 Carlos MARCHENA	31.07.79
14 MARIO	24.11.90
4 Mateo MUSACCHIO (Arg)	26.08.90
3 Joan ORIOL	05.11.86
2 Gonzalo RODRIGUEZ (Arg)	10.04.84
30 Carlos TOMAS	18.05.88
12 Cristian ZAPATA (Col)	30.09.86
MIDFIELDERS	
20 BORJA Valero	21.01.85
21 BRUNO	12.06.84
17 Javier CAMUNAS	17.07.80
10 CANI	03.08.81
8 Jonathan DE GUZMAN (Hol)	13.09.87
23 GERARD Bordas	11.09.81
26 Marcos GULLON	20.02.89
27 MANO (Por)	09.04.87
18 Wakaso MUBARAK (Gha)	25.07.90
49 NICO	11.02.91
32 Jordi PABLO	01.01.90
11 Hernan PEREZ (Par)	25.02.89
19 Marcos SENNA	17.07.76
FORWARDS	
39 KIKE	12.01.88
7 NILMAR (Bra)	14.07.84
22 Giuseppe ROSSI (Ita)	01.02.87
9 Marco RUBEN (Arg)	26.10.86
COACH	
Juan Carlos GARRIDO	29.03.69

THE GREAT TEAMS

Liverpool 1977

The Shankly-inspired team that won the Merseysiders' first European Cup and kicked off a period of English domination in Europe

Kings of Europe... Hughes (left) and Neal keep a firm grip on the European Cup as Liverpool go on a lap of honour in Rome

In the early 1970s Liverpool were becoming the dominant force in English football and it seemed only a matter of time before European success followed. But defeat by Red Star Belgrade in the European Cup second round in November 1973 prompted manager Bill Shankly to convene a meeting in the club's now-fabled "Boot Room".

Shankly, assistant Bob Paisley and fellow coaches Joe Fagan, Ronnie Moran and Reuben Bennett discussed how they could play a more "continental" way, frustrating their opponents and silencing opposition fans by retaining possession.

In July 1974, aged 60, Shankly stunned English football by announcing his retirement. The baton was passed to Paisley and European success soon followed. Club Brugge were beaten in the 1976 UEFA Cup Final, and a year later Liverpool lifted their first European Cup with a 3-1 victory over Borussia Monchengladbach in Rome.

A tight contest was expected against the likes of Berti Vogts, Allan Simonsen and Jupp Heynckes. But, as Keir Radnedge wrote in *World Soccer*'s June 1977 issue: "Virtually everyone must have agreed with [Kevin] Keegan and [Emlyn] Hughes afterwards when they admitted 'we never expected it would be so easy'."

It was Keegan's last game before joining Hamburg and in came Kenny Dalglish, Alan Hansen and Graeme Souness. Club Brugge were then beaten in the 1978 Final and there were further triumphs in 1981 and 1984. **WS**

THE FIRST XI

Ray Clemence
Goalkeeper
England international who made a crucial stop from Uli Stielike in the Final.

Phil Neal
Right-back
Scored Liverpool's third goal in the Final from the penalty spot.

Tommy Smith
Centre-back
Veteran who made his 600th and last appearance, in for the injured Phil Thompson.

Emlyn Hughes
Centre-back
Captain and England international who began his career as a full-back.

Joey Jones
Left-back
Wales international left-back who would return to Wrexham the following year.

Ian Callaghan
Midfielder
Veteran right-winger who was a non-playing member of England's 1966 World Cup squad.

Terry McDermott
Midfielder
England international who was one of Paisley's first signings, from Newcastle United in November 1974.

Jimmy Case
Midfielder
Tough-tackling with a fierce shot. Liverpool born, he joined Brighton in 1981.

Ray Kennedy
Midfielder
A striker when he joined from Arsenal, he became a highly effective attacking midfielder.

Steve Heighway
Forward
Strong, direct left-winger signed from non-league while completing an economics degree.

Kevin Keegan
Forward
England captain, he joined Hamburg after the 1977 Final. European Footballer of the Year twice.

THE MANAGER AND HIS TEAM

Bob Paisley
A native of the north-east of England and a one-club servant who played and captained Liverpool, winning the 1947 league title. Having initially worked as the club's physiotherapist after he retired from playing, Paisley was a loyal and trusted lieutenant to Bill Shankly for 15 years. Succeeded his mentor in 1974, at the age of 55, when Shankly unexpectedly retired. Won three European Cups in total, before retiring in 1983. Died in 1996 at the aged of 77.

Euro crown...Paisley

The formation
Paisley's Liverpool were set up in a basic 4-4-2 shape, but when it came to their style of play the emphasis was placed on ball retention and a patient build-up. For the Final against Borussia Monchengladbach, the manager opted to play Heighway in a more central attacking role, leaving more natural front runners David Fairclough and David Johnson on the bench, and omitting John Toshack completely. The energetic Keegan was the central figure and he brought midfielders McDermott, Case and Kennedy into play.

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